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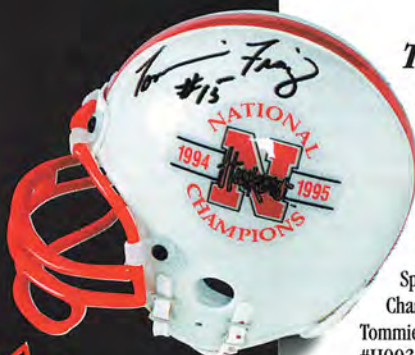
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For the past 29 years, Kansas State has tried to beat Nebraska. Each time, the Wildcats have failed. With what is arguably their best team ever, could the Wildcats finally break the streak, or will the Cornhuskers have them seeing red?

By Mike Babcock

36 Jaime's Not Crying

Despite playing four years, Krondak likely won't crack the school's all-time Top 10 in any statistical category, but the contributions she has made to the program are immeasurable.

By Todd Henrichs

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16

End Of Some Streaks

Well, with the loss to Texas, the Huskers' season is truly over. All the hopes that the team and the fans brought in to this season came to a crashing halt in Lincoln with the loss to lowly Texas. Along with the season, several streaks have also come to a premature end this season. An overall winning streak and a massively long home winning streak have stopped, and it appears that another streak, one that has lasted nearly three decades, is also in jeopardy. The Huskers have won at least nine games each season for nearly 30 years. A loss at K-State is almost assured, and beating CU is far less than certain. The play-calling has been atrocious, the good play at quarterback has been sporadic, the offensive line is terrible and the defensive backs have been terrible. What do you think this is doing to recruiting? Solich supporters can defend his coaching all they want; this season speaks for itself. With the returning weapons the Huskers started this year with, the only place you can place the blame is with Solich.

Sean Ballain
Lakewood, Colo.

Have Some Nebraska Pride

It's one thing to lose to an old Big 8 opponent, but it's quite another to lose to the foster teams of the old Southwest Conference. We are better than that. What upsets me the most is that we took them in, and they immediately began to dictate to the rest of the conference the rules of how they want things to be as if they run the whole show, and we let them do it. When we lose to their programs, it only gives them credibility. Their egos are large enough. It's time we take our conference back, and maybe do as the WAC has done and reform the league. Not because of the losses on the field, but because of the arrogance that emanates from the Texas area. It is our fault we lost the game, but let's not lose our pride. If this team can't find it within itself to overcome the adversity and play with some heart and determination, then just mail the victory in to K-State, save CU the trip to Lincoln, and don't even think of accepting a bowl bid. I love Nebraska and

the Huskers, but play with some pride and get back to Husker football.

Tom Pollard
Greeley, Colo.



True Big Red

Dr. Ray Chamberlain was a 1930 graduate of the University of Nebraska dental college. He and his wife, Thelma, have been lifelong Big Red boosters. Dr. Chamberlain's health had been questionable, and he was transferred to our care center in early October. His last wish was that he might live until the Cornhuskers' football season was completed. We all regret his wish was not fulfilled, but he is an example

of what Big Red really means in our lives.
Vivian Roeder
Peoria, Ariz.

Passing Is Necessary

Generally, I have a distaste for all those armchair quarterbacks who feel that they know the secret to a winning season for Nebraska. However, after watching the Texas A&M game, and after reading several letters in *Huskers Illustrated* from people who believe that the Huskers are passing too much, I felt compelled to write. It is my opinion that, had the Huskers not waited to start passing the ball in earnest until the fourth quarter, Nebraska could have won this game. In fact, all three Nebraska touchdowns were set up by a successful passing attack against the Aggies, who were clearly having a hard time defending through the air. In contrast, Nebraska's running attack did not appear to be working, in part because of Bobby Newcombe's injured knee.

I would never advocate abandoning the power running game that has brought the Huskers so much success in the past. Unfortunately, Nebraska did not use the other weapons in its arsenal until the fourth quarter. The Huskers clearly have the talent to run and pass effectively.

John Garcia
Phoenix, Ariz.

Got Something To Say?

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BIG 12 NEWS

Notes And Quotes From Around The League

SO YOU WANT TO PLAY QUARTERBACK?

It's a scary scene that's becoming all too familiar around the conference: a quarterback either staggers or is carried to the sideline. It happened five times on one weekend alone. Five starters went down during games on Oct. 24 — Kansas State's **Michael Bishop** and Nebraska's **Bobby Newcombe** were sidelined with leg injuries, while concussions knocked out Oklahoma's **Eric Moore**, Colorado's **Mike Moschetti** and Kansas' **Zac Wegner**.

"Certainly it's a position that has a bull's-eye on its back," said former quarterback and current Colorado coach **Rick Neuheisel**. Neuheisel credits the quarterback injury trend to bigger and faster players who are playing defensive schemes that overload the line of scrimmage and blitz on almost every snap.

"There is more pressure in today's football than in the past in terms of people sending lots of people after the quarterback," Neuheisel said. "I hope you are not telling (defensive) people to hurt them. But you certainly are trying to get pressure on them to cause them to throw errantly, or at least to break down the rhythm of that particular play."

The trend has placed a sense of urgency on coaches to have a capable backup prepared to take over at a moment's notice.

"You had better have a No. 2 ready because you have to be lucky to get through with your No. 1 for every play," Texas coach **Mack Brown** said. "They are taking beatings like they didn't before. What has happened is people are putting nine guys near the line of scrimmage to stop the run and force teams to be one-dimensional."

"After they become one-dimensional, they blitz the quarterback and they get a lot more pressure on him than they used to. So, the quarterback takes more hits than he ever did before."



Missouri's senior quarterback **Corby Jones** has battled more than a badly sprained toe this season.

COURAGEOUS CORBY JONES

Missouri quarterback **Corby Jones**' slower-than-expected start this season isn't a surprise to coach **Larry Smith**. Physically, a badly sprained toe on his left foot has slowed Jones. Emotionally, Jones still battles with the loss of his father, **Curtis**, the Missouri assistant coach who died after suffering a heart attack in July.

"It's a very tough situation and continues to be," Smith said of Jones losing his father. "When you are in a grieving process, as Corby is, it just doesn't go away overnight or once the football season starts. Corby's dad was a big, big part of his life both on and off the field."

"It has been a difficult time for Corby. And it's been compounded by the fact that Corby's really never been hurt before. The sprained toe has been very painful and required tons of rehab and treatment. Those two things have taken their toll on Corby. But he keeps coming back. He's a great young man and a great competitor. If he weren't, he probably wouldn't be out there right now. It speaks tons for his courage and his drive, because it's been very, very difficult for him."

SHORT SHOTS

• Baylor's Oct. 31 game at Notre Dame was a homecoming for Bears' coach **Dave Roberts**, who was an Irish assistant under **Lou Holtz**. "I can't say anything but great things about being there," Roberts said. "I had a great experience at Notre Dame. My daughter got a degree from Notre Dame, which was incredible. I think it will be a great experience for our kids to see the campus and Touchdown Jesus and the church."

• KSU coach **Bill Snyder** said he has no interest in the Bowl Championship Series ratings, although his Wildcats are in serious contention for a BCS slot. "I haven't read it," Snyder said of the BCS rating formula. "And I don't care officially where we stand. I don't think there is anything we can do to campaign, other than just play as well as we possibly can."

• Kansas coach **Terry Allen** raided the state of Texas two years ago to sign Killeen running back **David Winbush**. After Winbush burned Colorado for 268 yards rushing, Allen said he intends to add to the list of 12 Texans on KU's roster. "When we came in (to KU), we felt Texas would be an area great for us to recruit because of the exposure we get there in the Big 12," Allen said. "Having a Texas kid have success opens the door for us to continue having recruiting success in the state of Texas." ■ — **Dave Sittler**

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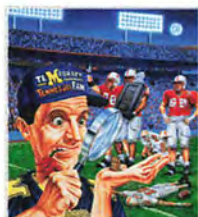
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Fancy dancers need not apply as the Huskers will have to run between the tackles to upend the run-stopping Wildcats

Full Speed Ahead

Frank Solich wrote a short note to **DeAngelo Evans** following Nebraska's 39-3 victory against Kansas State at Manhattan in 1996. Solich wanted to "make sure I could take it," Evans said.

Solich was referring to the boos directed at Evans by the fans at KSU Stadium.

Evans rushed for 168 yards and two touchdowns in the game, which was reason enough for the partisan Kansas State crowd to be displeased. Their displeasure was intensified by the fact that Evans was from Wichita and had been recruited out of Collegiate High School by the Wildcats.

Despite the boos, however, "I'm not a hated person in Kansas," said Evans.

Even though it was two years ago, the subject of the Kansas State game in 1996 came up earlier this season during an interview prior to the Washington game, for which Evans was returning after being sidelined by a knee injury suffered during the first major scrimmage of fall camp.

A reporter asked Evans if he was looking forward to

being booed at Kansas State. "I'm not even thinking about that," Evans replied. "I'm worried about Washington right now."

"I'll talk to you about that in November."

Evans' one-game-at-a-time attitude was justified. He rushed for 146 yards and three touchdowns in the victory against Washington.

Both Buckhalter and Evans (cutout) are the type of backs who can make a gambling defense pay.

Then he suffered a bruised tailbone in the next game against Oklahoma State and gave way to Correll Buckhalter, who had started the first three games.

Obviously, Solich would appreciate having both Evans and Buckhalter healthy when the Cornhuskers play Kansas State in Manhattan on Saturday. The odds are, Nebraska will need to establish a running game in order to be successful against a Kansas State defense that has been stingy against the run.

Considering the Wildcats' defensive speed, a power approach might be the most effective, which means the 6-foot, 225-pound Buckhalter might be a key. His running style is well-suited to a power game.

"Any time you're trying to run a power offense, run between the tackles a great deal, you cannot have backs that are sliding sideways a lot, getting caught with lateral moves, hesitant in their decision-making," Solich said after Buckhalter rushed for 133 yards and three touchdowns in the Kansas game.

"You need up-the-field runners. We pride ourselves on having those style of runners in our program. And I think Correll's style in that ballgame fit what we wanted to do very, very well.

"Certainly the other backs in our system are that way, also. We feel we have up-the-field runners.

"That's what it takes because if you don't have that and you're trying to run inside and you're consistently bouncing and sliding, you eventually may find a crease to make a fairly big play. But more than likely what's going to happen is, you're going to end up being second-and-8."

In contrast, a runner like Buckhalter can help an offense.

"(Buckhalter) slashes and really makes the quick, up-the-field cuts, a lot of times it may not look like much of a play, but when you look up, it's second-and-4," said Solich. "And there's a big difference in play-calling, (between) second-and-8 and second-and-4, believe me."

Nebraska I-backs have run the ball well during Bill Snyder's first nine seasons as head coach at Kansas State. A Cornhusker running back has gained 100 or more yards in each game, and twice during that time Nebraska's quarterback also has rushed for 100 or more yards against the Wildcats.

Last season, **Scott Frost** nearly made it three, gaining 98 yards (Kansas State's team rushing total) and scoring one touchdown on 17 carries in the Cornhuskers' 56-26 victory in Lincoln.

Ahman Green led Nebraska in rushing with 193 yards and four touchdowns.

Buckhalter carried only once for a 2-yard gain against Kansas State last season. If he's healthy, however, he'll almost certainly be busier than that this time around.

"He's a very good player," Solich said. "There's no question. He played a great deal for us as a true freshman. You know, you don't come into our program and play a considerable amount as a true freshman without being a talented running back. So we've got a great deal of confidence in him.

"The style of running back you have to fit a power-running game, I think, is very, very important. We're fortunate enough that we have those kind of runners in our system."

Evans fits the system, too. Solich is hoping he's also healthy enough to play.

And elicit some boos from unhappy Kansas State fans. ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

NIFTY FIFTY

Bill Shepard has worked for the University of Nebraska for 50 years, including the last 39 in the athletic department. He's the university's first 50-year employee, and he plans to continue working at least as long as his supply of distinctive red with white polka-dot engineer's caps lasts.

Shepard, Nebraska's grounds manager, began purchasing the caps at a Wells and Frost store in Lincoln in "about 1954," he told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

He purchased a dozen more before the business closed.

The caps have become Shepard's signature as he goes about the business of taking care not only of Memorial Stadium and the football practice fields to the northeast of it but also Schulte Fieldhouse, the Ed Weir Track, Buck Beltzer Stadium and the NU Softball Complex.

Among his duties is caring for Memorial Stadium's artificial turf, which he cleared of snow with a tractor at halftime of the 1986 Kansas State game. His clearing it wasn't as mundane as it might sound. Afterward, "the Kansas State coach blamed me for that loss," Shepard said.

The complaint of **Stan Parrish**, the head coach at Kansas State at the time, lacked justification. The Cornhuskers had scored 17 points in the first quarter on the way to a 38-0 victory.

Parrish lasted only three seasons total in Manhattan before being replaced by **Bill Snyder**.

NO REGRETS, LOOKING BACK

Fifth-year senior quarterback **Monte Christo** had numerous scholarship offers from smaller schools out of Kearney, Neb., High School, but he elected to walk on at Nebraska.

"There are a lot of people who ask me why I didn't go to another school. They tell me I could have played more," he said. "But I also could have been 35-years-old, saying to myself: 'What would it have been like if I had gone to Nebraska?' I didn't want to ask myself that question."

Christo, like every player, whether a scholarship recruit or a walkon, imagined he would eventually work his way to the top of the depth chart. "I had expectations of being the (starting) quarterback one day," he said. "But I realized I was probably going to be a role player for a while."

A while became all of his career, though he's played an important role this season.

Despite being beset by injuries and playing at a time when the Cornhusker quarterbacks have included **Tommie Frazier**, **Brook Berringer** and **Scott Frost**, as well as current teammates **Bobby Newcombe** and **Eric Crouch**, Christo had no complaints, even before his opportunities this season.

WITH A LITTLE HELP

True freshman cornerback **Keyuo Craver** has gotten a lot of advice and encouragement from sophomore **Erwin Swiney**, for whom he is the No. 1 backup at left cornerback.

Swiney, in turn, received advice and encouragement from **Ralph Brown** last season.

"Like a lot of things that Ralph did for me, I'm doing the same to Keyuo," Swiney told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "He's doing real well. He's getting better with the coverages, and everything is going uphill for him. I enjoy seeing it because I know what it's like to be a true freshman."

Swiney started nine games and the Orange Bowl last season. ■

Bill Shepard



Wildcats Must Clear Final Hurdle

Regardless of what has happened so far this season, winning against Nebraska remains the final step to Kansas State earning national respect



**Mike
BABCOCK**

THE LETTER OF complaint was written in purple ink. The author chose to remain anonymous, which is understandable given the hard edge to the message it conveyed.

At least it wasn't one of those notes in which words have been formed with letters clipped out of newspapers and magazines — making it more difficult to trace.

It was uncomplimentary but not what I would consider threatening, so there was no need to turn it over to the appropriate authorities. I turned it over to the nearest wastebasket instead.

I worked for the *Lincoln Journal Star* at the time and had written a column suggesting Kansas State disband its football program. "Let's be honest, Kansas State ought to give up football, put its energy and resources into basketball, and end nearly a century of frustration," the column said.

The opinion was tongue-in-cheek, of course, like Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal*. A Wildcat fan with access to a purple ink pen didn't consider it funny, however. Hence the letter.

The column was written in October of 1988, the week before Nebraska played Kansas State at Manhattan. The Wildcats were 0-6, on the way to 0-11 under coach Stan Parrish.

The season was Parrish's third at Kansas State. And it would be his last.

He had already announced he would resign at season's end.

Kansas State's football program was the losingest in major college history at the time. It might still be. But ninth-year head coach Bill Snyder has turned things around in dramatic fashion.

The Wildcats have already assured themselves of a sixth-consecutive winning season and a trip to a postseason bowl game. Before Snyder arrived from Iowa, where he was a Hayden Fry assistant, Kansas State played in only one bowl game — a loss to Wisconsin in the 1982 Independence Bowl.

The Wildcats had managed only two winning records in their previous 34 seasons. And they had gone through six head coaches, which was the problem the column was meant to address.

"I hope whoever they hire, they make a long-term commitment to him, and if he wins three or four games next year, encourage the dickens out of him," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

Osborne and Oklahoma's Barry Switzer were in their

16th season as head coaches at the time. They had a combined 306 victories, compared to Kansas State's 299 victories in 92-plus seasons.

Parrish's immediate predecessor was Lee Moon, the school's athletic director, who had taken over as coach when Jim Dickey suddenly resigned following the second game of the 1985 season. Dickey had coached the Wildcats to a 6-5-1 record and the Independence Bowl three seasons earlier.

Had Dickey finished out the 1985 season, he would have tied Vince Gibson (1967-74) and Charles Bachman (1920-27) for the longest head coaching tenure in Kansas State football history.

Snyder now holds the record.

Although the Wildcats didn't win "three or four games" in his first season as head coach — at 1-10 they were one victory better than they had been in Parrish's final season — Kansas State president Dr. Jon Wefald did, as Osborne suggested, encourage the dickens out of Snyder.

And Wefald's support paid off. The Wildcats had a winning record (7-4) in Snyder's third season, and they were 9-2-1 in his fifth — the first of five consecutive seasons of nine or more victories.

(This season makes it six in a row.)

Snyder has produced a miracle turnaround in a program that had been synonymous with failure. What he has yet to accomplish, however, is coaching a Kansas State victory against Nebraska.

Kansas State has invested considerable emotional energy in the Nebraska game.

Nebraska has been on the minds of the Wildcats since Dec. 31, when they defeated Syracuse 35-18 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Quarterback Michael Bishop vowed that Kansas State would return this season to the Fiesta Bowl, which will be host to the Bowl Championship Series national title game.

Realistically, that would require a victory against the Cornhuskers.

Though Snyder isn't shrill the way former Colorado coach Bill McCartney was, Nebraska has become the red-letter game on Kansas State's schedule. The Cornhuskers are his team's designated rival.

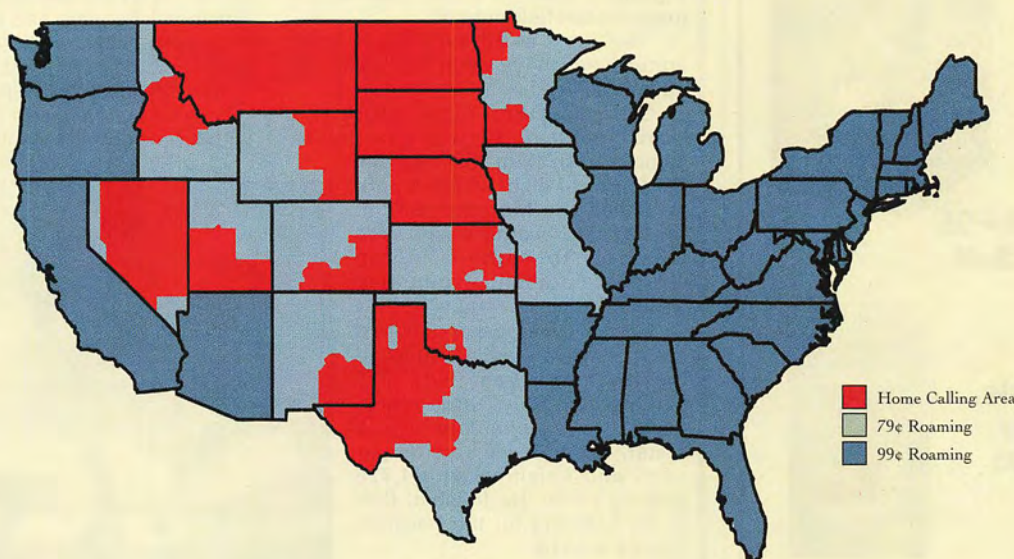
Had I known Snyder would replace Parrish, I wouldn't have written that column 10 years ago, suggesting the Wildcats give up football and concentrate on other athletic pursuits.

Then again, maybe I would have. I wasn't serious, after all, even though the trials and tribulations of KSU's program to that point in its history made it easy to think so. ■



Under Bill Snyder, KSU has defeated every team in the Big 12 except for Nebraska.

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JET'S RETROSPECTIVE

Heisman History

Ohio State's Archie Griffin, 1974-75

TWENTY-FOUR years after winning his first Heisman Trophy, Archie Griffin is still telling young and old people about the way in which he governs his life, living by the "Three D's:" determination, dedication and desire. This isn't just a corny slogan for Griffin; it's a principle by which he lives. It's also what sets him apart from other former players. He practices what he preaches and pursues his prayers.

Coach Woody Hayes called the 5-foot-8, 182-pound Griffin the greatest winner he ever saw. He was most impressed with Griffin's ability to block. He was once quoted as saying, "Archie Griffin can do everything. He's a great blocker, a great faker and a great broken-field runner."

"But most of all, he's got a great attitude, which we value more than his athletic ability."

Griffin's Ohio State roots run extremely deep. He was born in the campus hospital in 1954. He was the fourth of eight children born to James and Margaret Griffin. He has two brothers who also went on to careers in the National Football League, Ray and Keith.

Griffin's college career had an impressive start. He finished his freshman year with 772 yards rushing and three touchdowns. As a sophomore he was a star, averaging 6.3 yards per carry and finishing with 1,428 rushing yards. He finished fifth in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy in 1973.

In that season's Rose Bowl game, he ran for 149 yards as the Buckeyes won, 42-21, against USC.

He ripped through the Big Ten his junior year, gaining 1,620 yards and winning his first Heisman Trophy, outdistancing Southern California's Anthony Davis, the runner-up in voting.

During his emotional acceptance speech, Griffin said, "To me, football represents the good things in life. I'd do everything in my power to set the greatest example. If today's young people look up to the Heisman winners and other stars the way I did, they'll do as I did."

Griffin has kept his word. His senior year, with all eyes on him, his mother had a premonition. Margaret Griffin would dream that Archie had won the trophy again, and the family would be standing again with the Heisman and Archie, with people watching and standing around.

California running back Chuck Muncie also had visions of grandeur that season, envisioning that he would

win the Heisman Trophy. Muncie outrushed Griffin by 103 yards, with a 6.4 yards-per-carry average compared to Griffin's 5.5 yards-per-carry average. But Griffin had set an NCAA record by rushing for 100 or more yards in 31

consecutive games. He also set a record when he won his second Heisman Trophy, a dream he had had ever since he was nine years old.

Griffin had an average professional career, playing six seasons for the Cincinnati Bengals and having a brief fling with Jacksonville of the United States Football League (USFL).

Griffin says he is happy having played in the NFL, and he is satisfied with his accomplishments.



**Johnny
RODGERS**



Archie GRIFFIN

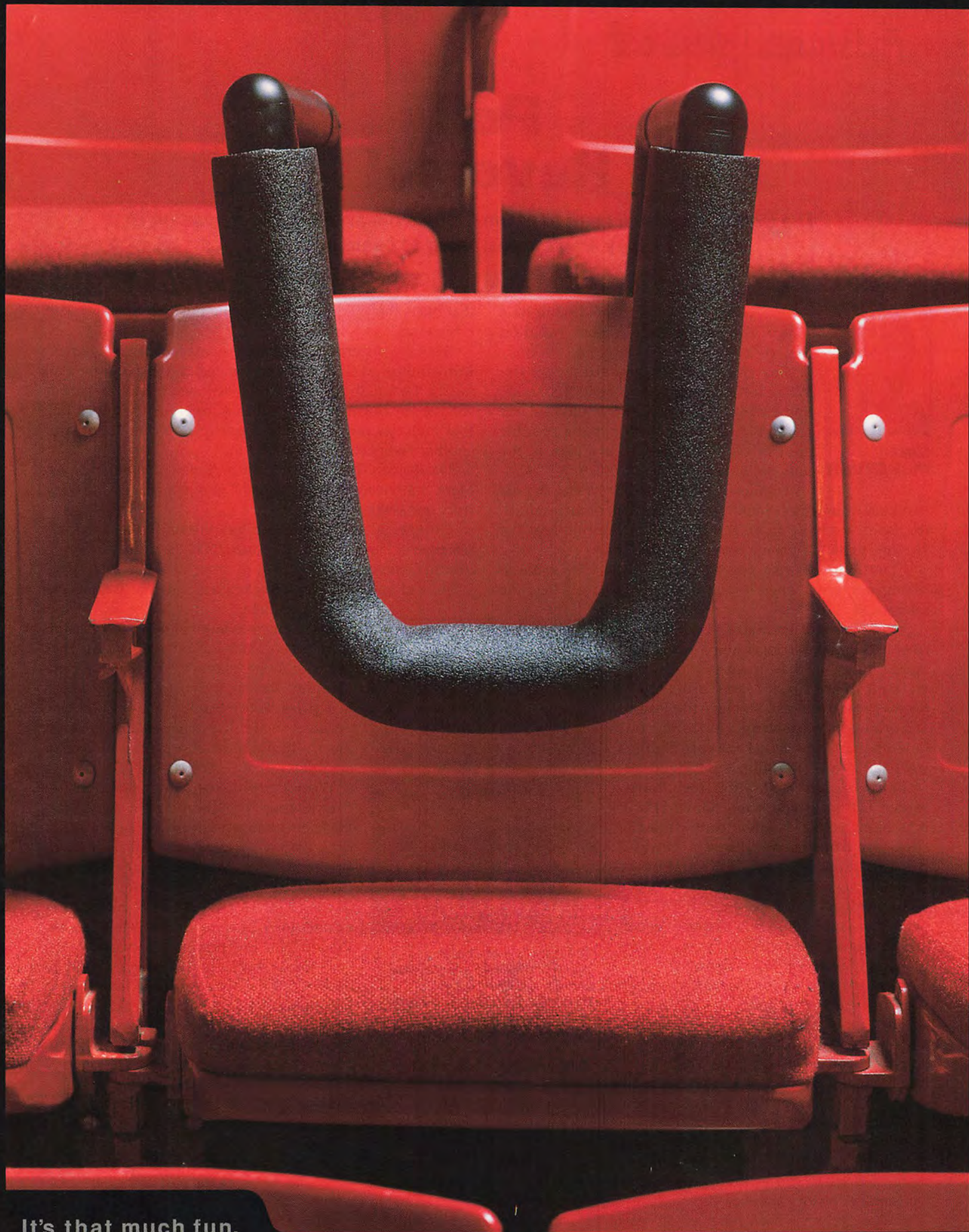
He is currently an assistant athletic director at Ohio State, and one of the school's top ambassadors. He also is a national spokesperson for the Wendy's Heisman program, in which top high school students from all over the country are honored each year.

"College, in general, was the greatest time in my life — the people I know, the people who have helped me, the education I received. These things will be with me forever," he said.

"The Heisman is a part of all this." Griffin is very well-respected among the other Heisman Trophy winners, and we all love him for what he has brought to our fraternity. Determination. Dedication. Desire.

Thanks Archie, for being a true role model for our children and for ourselves.

As he was this past year, Griffin will continue to be a part of the Husker/Heisman event in Omaha. ■



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Poll Reversal

The Cornhuskers will head to Manhattan as the underdog — a position they aren't accustomed to being in



Curt McKEEVER

IMAGINE WHAT it must feel like to be a part of the Kansas State football program this week.

For the first time maybe ever, the Wildcats are expected to beat Nebraska, and the reward for doing so would be a trip to the Big 12 championship and a possible spot in the Fiesta Bowl for a shot at the national title.

I wonder if K-State will be able to handle that kind of pressure. Somewhere in the back of their minds, the Wildcats have to be thinking, "If we don't beat the Huskers this year, we might never get it done."

Count on Nebraska fans bringing up the 1994 game in Manhattan, Kan., when it looked like the Wildcats held the advantage.

With Tommie Frazier out with blood clots and Brook Berringer ailing with a collapsed lung, NU was down to third-string walk-on quarterback Matt Turman. The Kansas State defense stacked the line of scrimmage, expecting nothing but Lawrence Phillips left, Lawrence Phillips right and Lawrence Phillips up the gut.

Phillips carried 31 times for a hard-earned 117 yards and a touchdown. But it was Nebraska's defense that stole the show, limiting the Wildcats to minus-7 rushing yards and only 242 total on 71 snaps during the 17-6 victory.

If Nebraska is to pull the "upset" this week, the same thing might have to occur, even though I'm convinced this is far from the same situation of four years ago.

It is hard to label the Huskers as underdogs against Kansas State.

They've won 29 straight in the series, and the last 17 in Manhattan. Heck, even before NU began its rise to the top of college football it always had Kansas State to fall back on.

In 1957, Nebraska won one game. K-State was the victim.

NU also handed the 1916 and 1922 Wildcat teams their only losses.

But the days when people think of Nebraska as a mismatch for what still is the losingest program in NCAA Division I-A history are over.

Kansas State has been ridiculed all season long for playing an embarrassing schedule. Among their opponents: Division I-AA Indiana State, Northern Illinois (which carried the longest current Division I-A losing streak into the season) and Northeast Louisiana. In the long run, maybe

that hurts the Wildcats, but make no mistake — their talent is big time.

Senior quarterback Michael Bishop looks like the next Kordell Stewart. He's tall, elusive and can heave a football nearly the length of the field. He throws to an NFL-caliber receiver in Darnell McDonald and operates behind a line that includes projected first-round pick Ryan Young and another prospect in Jeremy Martin.

Defensively, the Wildcats' linebacking corps of Jeff Kelly, Mark Simoneau and Travis Ochs is outstanding, and their front line is the best in the Big 12.

On special teams, K-State has the nation's best punt returner in David Allen and a sure NFL field-goal kicker in Martin Gramatica.

Short of having a game-breaking running back, the package is complete.

But no one is complaining about the running game. While last year's national junior college player of the year, Frank Murphy, was supposed to be the solution to Kansas State's troubles moving the ball against run-stuffing defenses, Eric Hickson has made the most of a rare sixth year of eligibility.

With Murphy suspended for the first four games for violating NCAA rules, Hickson established himself as the No. 1 back with a 124-yard effort against Texas in the third game. The night Murphy debuted at Colorado, Hickson gained 137 yards. And two weeks ago, he got 117 against Iowa State to become K-State's all-time rushing leader with 2,268 yards.

"I think they're both two good football teams (but) their attacks are different," said Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons, whose club came up a yard short of possibly beating Nebraska and scored more points than anyone this season against the Wildcats.

"Defensively, I think they're both good. I think Nebraska's defense really puts a lot of pressure on you, where K-State is a little bit more man coverage but don't bring as much pressure. I think what you've got are probably two of the better football teams in this conference."

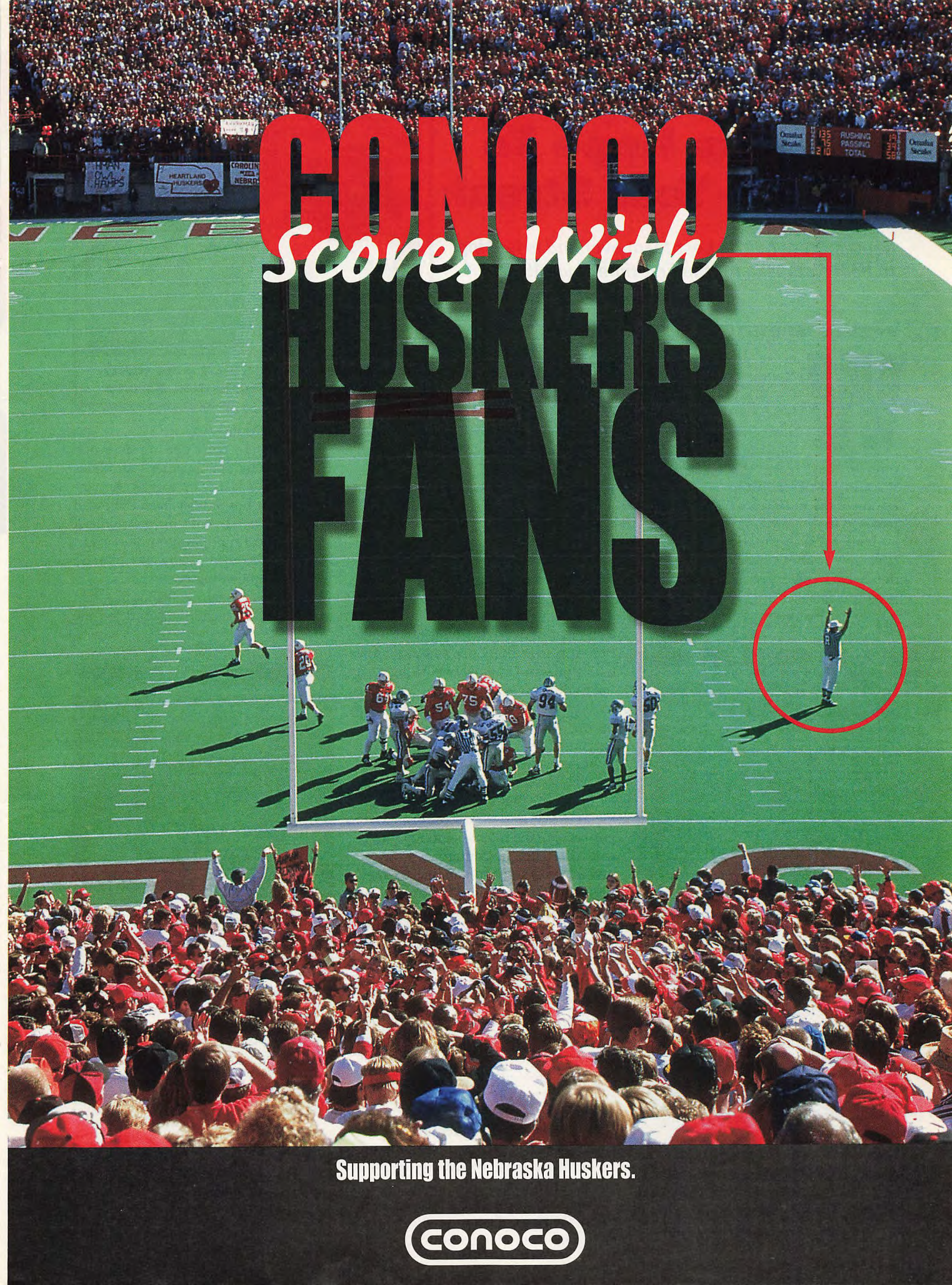
One could possibly end up being the best in the country.

That doesn't necessarily mean the most-talented team comes out of this a winner. ■



The last time the Wildcats thought they had a legitimate chance at downing the Huskers, walk-on quarterback Matt Turman helped seal the Nebraska victory.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.



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Wildcats Hope To End 29-Year Streak

Kansas State has its best team ever and is looking to beat Nebraska for the first time since 1968

By Mark DEROWITSCH

When Nebraska faces Kansas State on Saturday, one football team will walk into KSU Stadium as one of the most feared teams in the country.

That team is ranked first in just about every defensive category, has the best run-pass quarterback in the country and has rolled just about every one of its

KANSAS STATE

1998 Schedule/Results		
S5	Indiana St.	W, 66-0
S12	No. Illinois	W, 73-7
S19	Texas	W, 48-7
S26	NE Louisiana	W, 62-7
O10	at Colorado	W, 16-9
O17	Oklahoma St.	W, 52-20
O24	Iowa St.	W, 52-7
O31	at Kansas	W, 54-6
N7	at Baylor	W, 45-6
N14	Nebraska	
N21	at Missouri	

opponents this season, winning its first eight games by an average margin of 44 points.

It's a familiar story for the Nebraska-Kansas State rivalry, which dates all the way back to 1911. This year the story is

twisted.

Kansas State enters Saturday's game against Nebraska in Manhattan, Kan., as the overwhelming favorite, a position that the Cornhuskers have usually found themselves in against the Wildcats. Nebraska has won the last 29 games against Kansas State, dating all the way back to 1968. The last time the Wildcats posted a victory at home against the Cornhuskers was in 1959.

This year, with Nebraska losing to Texas A&M and Texas, Kansas State has become the overwhelming favorite to win the Big 12 Conference title and possibly play for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl. The Wildcats are doing it with an explosive offense and an athletic, swarming defense reminiscent of Nebraska's when the Cornhuskers won back-to-back national titles earlier in this decade.

It's hard to talk about the Wildcats without first mentioning quarterback Michael Bishop, a senior who leads the Big 12 in passing and is one of the top signal-callers in the country. Through eight games, Bishop has thrown for 1,778 yards and 16 touchdowns, has rushed for 403 yards and leads the Big 12 in total offense by averaging 272.6 yards per game.

If it weren't for Texas running back Ricky Williams, Bishop would be one of the first athletes mentioned in the

NEBRASKA
(8-2)

@

KANSAS STATE
(9-0)



DeAngelo EVANS



Michael BISHOP

November 14, 1998 • 1 p.m. (CST)
KSU Stadium • Manhattan, Kansas

Heisman Trophy race.

Yet Bishop isn't getting as much Heisman attention as other candidates are. For the last four weeks, Kansas State coach Bill Snyder hasn't allowed the media to talk with his quarterback after Bishop made a comment right before the Wildcats' game at Colorado that riled up the Buffaloes.

Since his muzzling, Bishop has had a hand in 11 touchdowns and led the

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	6	Kenny Cheatham***	6-4	210	Sr.
-or-	3	Matt Davison*	6-0	180	So.
LT	69	Adam Julch**	6-5	315	Jr.
	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
LG	63	James Sherman**	6-2	295	Jr.
	54	Dominic Raiola	6-2	300	Fr.
C	59	Josh Heskew***	6-3	290	Sr.
	54	Dominic Raiola	6-2	300	Fr.
RG	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
	55	Russ Hochstein*	6-3	280	So.
RT	65	Jason Schwab*	6-1	300	Jr.
	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson***	6-4	245	Sr.
	85	T.J. DeBates**	6-3	250	Jr.
QB	12	Bobby Newcombe*	6-0	195	So.
-or-	7	Monte Christo	6-0	195	Sr.
FB	45	Joel Makovicka***	5-11	240	Sr.
	15	Willie Miller*	6-0	230	So.
IB	4	DeAngelo Evans*	5-9	210	So.
-or-	36	Correll Buckhalter*	6-0	225	So.
WB	5	Shevin Wiggins**	5-11	200	Sr.
-or-	14	Lance Brown**	5-11	190	Sr.
PK	35	Kris Brown***	5-10	205	Sr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chad Kelsay***	6-3	250	Sr.
	83	Kyle Vanden Bosch*	6-4	260	So.
NT	99	Jason Wiltz**	6-4	310	Sr.
	96	Steve Warren**	6-1	305	Jr.
DT	91	Loran Kaiser*	6-5	280	So.
	90	Jeremy Slechta	6-5	255	Fr.
RR	84	Mike Rucker***	6-6	250	Sr.
	81	Aaron Wills	6-2	240	Jr.
SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0	215	Jr.
-or-	46	Brian Shaw**	6-1	215	Jr.
MLB	44	Jay Foreman***	6-1	240	Sr.
	13	Carlos Polk*	6-3	245	So.
WLB	1	Eric Johnson**	6-1	205	Sr.
	50	Julius Jackson*	6-0	235	Jr.
LCB	16	Erwin Swiney*	6-0	185	So.
	3	Keyuo Craver	6-0	180	Fr.
FS	19	Clint Finley*	5-11	200	So.
	14	Dion Booker	6-1	205	Fr.
ROV	21	Mike Brown**	5-10	205	Jr.
	25	Joe Walker*	5-10	200	So.
RCB	22	Ralph Brown**	5-9	180	Jr.
	9	Khari Reynolds**	5-10	185	So.
P	23	Bill Lafleur**	5-11	200	Sr.

Tentative 2 Deeps

KANSAS STATE DEFENSE

DE	46	Joe Bob Clements	6-3	245	Sr.
	36	Chris Johnson	6-1	240	So.
DT	56	Andrae Rowe	6-0	290	Sr.
	55	DeVane Robinson	6-1	270	Fr.
DT	77	Damion McIntosh	6-4	290	Jr.
	98	Eric Everley	6-6	315	Fr.
DE	49	Darren Howard	6-4	270	Fr.
	44	Monty Beisel	6-3	235	So.
LB	43	Travis Litton	6-2	240	Jr.
	50	Travis Ochs	6-3	225	Sr.
LB	8	Jeff Kelly	6-0	245	Sr.
	52	Ben Leber	6-3	240	Fr.
LB	42	Mark Simoneau	6-0	230	Jr.
	54	Jason Kazar	6-0	215	So.
CB	23	Jerametrius Butler	5-10	175	Fr.
	17	Gerald Neasman	5-9	180	Sr.
FS	1	Lamar Chapman	6-0	180	Jr.
	38	Jon McGraw	6-3	190	Fr.
SS	40	Jarrod Cooper	6-1	205	So.
	14	Milton Proctor	6-0	195	Fr.
CB	35	Dyshod Carter	5-10	175	So.
	2	Keith Black	5-10	170	Sr.
P	16	James Garcia	6-2	195	Jr.

KANSAS STATE OFFENSE

WR	22	Aaron Lockett	5-7	155	Fr.
	83	Everett Burnett	6-1	190	Sr.
LT	74	Milford Stephenson	6-2	275	So.
	65	Thomas Barnett	6-5	300	Fr.
LG	73	Brian Hanley	6-2	325	Sr.
	66	Ian Moses	6-3	290	Jr.
C	58	Randall Cummins	6-3	285	So.
	70	John Robertson	6-4	285	So.
RG	78	Jeremy Martin	6-4	305	Sr.
	79	David McIntyre	6-2	305	Sr.
RT	76	Ryan Young	6-6	330	Sr.
	68	Dennis Jones	6-7	300	Fr.
TE	86	Justin Swift	6-3	250	Sr.
	85	Shad Meier	6-5	245	So.
QB	7	Michael Bishop	6-1	205	Sr.
	19	Adam Helm	6-3	220	Jr.
RB	24	Eric Hickson	5-8	200	Sr.
	3	Frank Murphy	6-1	205	Jr.
FB	30	Brian Goolsby	6-2	250	Fr.
	34	Eric Gooden	6-3	230	Fr.
WR	80	Darnell McDonald	6-3	195	Sr.
	87	Gavin Peries	6-1	200	Sr.
K	10	Martin Gramatica	5-9	170	Sr.

Wildcats to four easy victories.

"The idea was for Michael to regain focus on what he's doing on the field," Snyder told the *Bloomberg News*. "I think he's done that."

All the talk, or lack thereof in Bishop's case, of the Heisman isn't a problem at Kansas State.

Anyway, Snyder isn't going for all the hoopla.

"I don't think anyone can talk their way into the Heisman," Snyder told *Bloomberg News*.

Bishop is just one of many stand-outs on the Kansas State offense. Tailback Eric Hickson averages 85 yards per game on the ground and has scored eight rushing touchdowns. He's being pushed by highly touted Frank Murphy, a junior college transfer who had to sit out some early season games but has come on for the Wildcats in recent weeks.

The Wildcats also have two quality wide receivers in Darnell McDonald and Aaron Lockett. McDonald has developed into Bishop's favorite target, catching 45 receptions for 633 yards and five touchdowns. Lockett has made 23 catches for 571 yards and has also scored five times.

If that's not enough firepower, consider kicker Martin Gramatica, who scored 94 points in Kansas State's first eight games and has connected on 15 of 20 field goal attempts.

Gramatica is the likely winner of

the Lou Groza Award, which is given annually to the nation's top place-kicker. He showed why he was deserving of that award when he booted a 67-yard field goal against Northern Illinois.

As good as the Wildcats' offense is, their defense may be even better. The numbers in this case don't lie.

Kansas State leads the nation in rushing defense (giving up 63.8 yards per game), is second in pass efficiency, is first in total defense (213.0 yards), first in scoring defense (7.9 points) and third in turnover margin (plus-15).

"It's seemingly as good as any (defense) we've had," Snyder told the *Kansas City Star*. "But we still have a long ways to go."

Need a reason why Snyder thinks the Wildcats can play better defensively? Kansas State's entire first-team defensive unit has started intact just four times this season.

Kansas State is still posting remarkable numbers with backups playing key roles because of injuries.

Linebacker Travis Ochs, the leader of the Kansas State defense, has missed much of the last two games, but the Wildcats held Kansas to six points and Iowa State to seven in his absence. Cornerback Gerald Neasman has missed time as well, but Jerametrius Butler filled in nicely. Dyshod Carter leads the team in interceptions with two, although he's battling for a starting job.

The front seven makes the Wildcats go, though. This defense has given up less than 600 yards rushing in its first eight games, giving Kansas State plenty of time to be aggressive with its blitz packages.

Will it be enough to finally stop Nebraska? The Huskers have been a barrier Kansas State hasn't been able to overcome in 29 years. But this time, the Wildcats enter as the team to beat, and the fact that the game will be played in Manhattan could mean trouble for the Cornhuskers.

While Kansas State is having its best year ever, the Wildcats must clear the final obstacle that has stood in their way since 1968. They can finally do that with a win on Saturday. ■

TALE OF THE APE

Who Has The Edge?

QUARTERBACKS

It looks like Eric Crouch has taken over the starting role for Nebraska, but Kansas State's Michael Bishop may be the best in the nation. Bishop makes the Wildcats' offense go, and he could have a big day against the Blackshirts.



RUNNING BACKS

The Cornhuskers are banged up but will be boosted by a healthy DeAngelo Evans. Dan Alexander has come on strong. Kansas State is steady, led by Eric Hickson and JUCO transfer Frank Murphy.



RECEIVERS

Bishop has plenty of help here. While most of the attention goes to the Wildcats' quarterback and running backs, Darnell McDonald and Aaron Lockett are as good as any duo in the nation.



OFFENSIVE LINE

Bishop has all day to throw and lanes to run in. The Wildcats' group is big and has no problem pushing back opposing defensive lines. Nebraska has gotten a solid effort this year, but will have its work cut out Saturday.



DEFENSIVE LINE

The Kansas State linebackers get most of the attention — and deservedly so — but the Cats' defensive line is the plug of the best defense in the nation. Nebraska, as always, has a strong unit to battle K-State's explosive attack.



LINEBACKERS

Nebraska's Jay Foreman is playing like an All-American right now. Unfortunately, so are Kansas State's Travis Ochs, Jeff Kelly and Mark Simoneau. K-State's trio is the best in the nation.



SECONDARY

Bishop will have his toughest test of the year. This won't be Indiana State or Northeast Louisiana. The Husker secondary has taken its share of heat, but it is still a solid — and underappreciated — bunch.



SPECIAL TEAMS

Kansas State is solid all around in this area. Nebraska is solid, as well. The edge goes to Kansas State because kicker Martin Gramatica could kick one from Wichita. The scary thing is Kris Brown probably could, too.



HI Predictions

Shawn Heilbron KSU, 31-24

Comment: *Wildcats too much at home.*

Steve Roe KSU, 41-21

Comment: *Cats vent 29 years of frustration.*

QB ERIC CROUCH

VS

KSU D-LINE

KEY MATCHUP

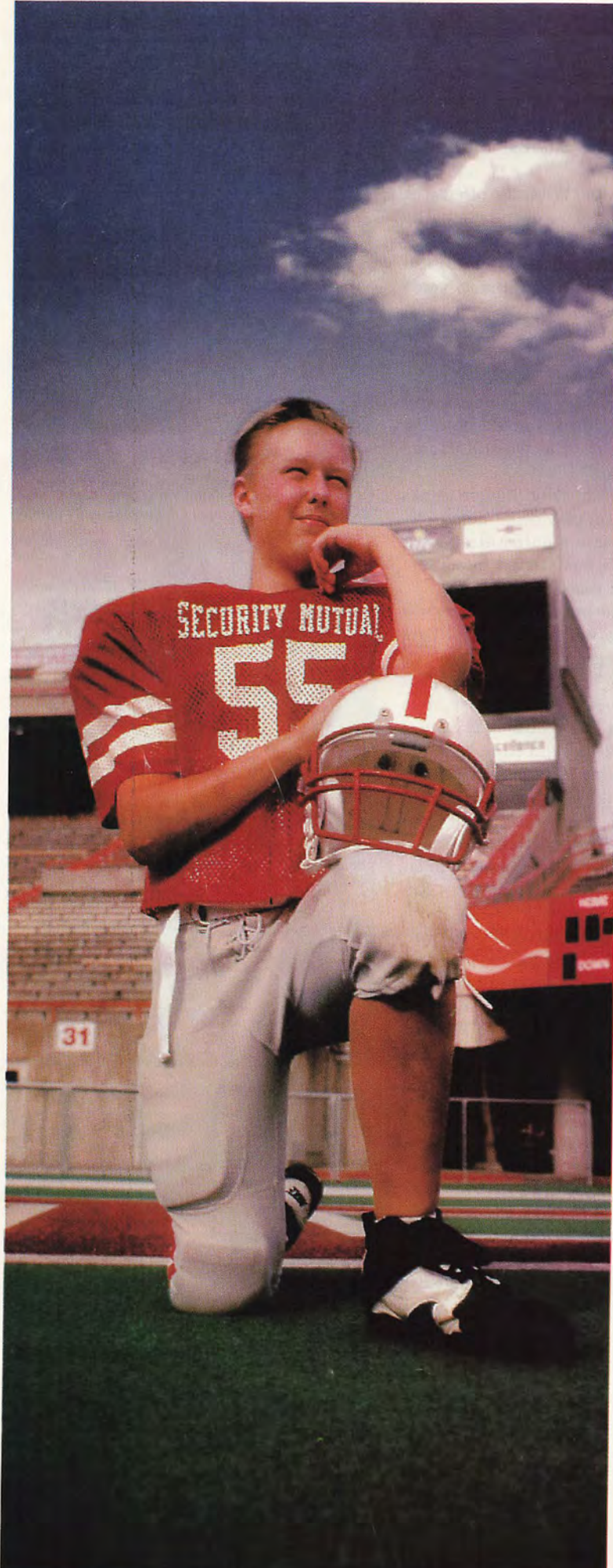
With Bobby Newcombe still slowed with an injured knee, the task of running Nebraska's offense falls into the hands of Crouch, who played well in a relief role against Texas.

Crouch, a redshirt freshman, is Nebraska's top big-play threat, and he came through with a couple of long runs against the Longhorns.

Kansas State will likely throw every blitz package conceivable at Crouch, and how the young quarterback handles the pressure could decide the outcome of the game.

If the Huskers are able to run the ball effectively against the Wildcats, they may not have to deal with so much pressure. That would open up the passing game, an important aspect in Nebraska's offense this season. Crouch will need help from the Husker I-backs to plant a seed of doubt in the minds of the Kansas State defensive linemen.

The key here could be Nebraska's first couple of offensive possessions. If the Huskers are able to move the ball in the first quarter against the Wildcats, it would take a lot of the load off the quarterback and possibly pave the way to a big win for Nebraska. ■



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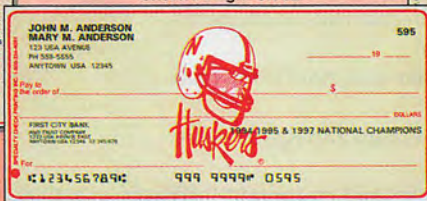
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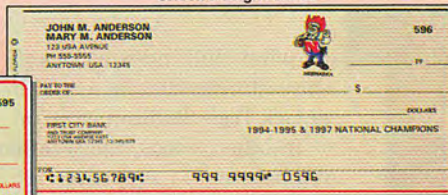
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The wind chill index at kickoff was 17 degrees, with snow flurries that increased in intensity as the game at Jack Trice Stadium wore on.

In other words, the weather was not fit for man nor beast.

Nebraska's offensive linemen, however, were another story.

It was a "miserable day out there," center and co-captain Josh Heskew said after the Cornhuskers' 42-7 victory against Iowa State.

"But we had a good day."

Linebacker and co-captain Jay Foreman agreed. "Offensively, I was really proud of the guys, especially the offensive line," he said.

"They were taking some heat."

Not on this afternoon, however. The offensive line opened the way for 359 yards rushing, including 110 by sophomore I-back Dan Alexander, who started for the first time in his career.

Alexander also scored three touchdowns against an Iowa State team that lost its sixth game in a row.

"Going into the game, I was a little bit nervous," said Alexander, who got the start in place of sophomore Correll Buckhalter — and with DeAngelo Evans still sidelined by injury.

Evans, who is still ailing from the bruised tailbone he suffered early in the Oklahoma State game, wasn't included on the travel roster.

Neither was quarterback Bobby Newcombe, who spent the week at home in Albuquerque, N.M., getting second opinions from doctors there and in El Paso, Texas, about the torn posterior cruciate ligament that has hampered him since the Louisiana Tech opener.

Newcombe's absence, at times, seemed to overshadow the preparations as Nebraska attempted to come back from a 20-16 home loss against Texas.

He was even quoted in an Albuquerque newspaper story as saying nothing was "impossible" regarding a transfer from Nebraska.

By week's end, however, it appeared Newcombe would be returning.

He wouldn't have been able to play anyway, leaving Eric Crouch and Monte Christo to compete for the starting assignment.

As it turned out, there was no suspense. Solich announced on Monday that Crouch would be the starter.

"I had a good idea of who was going to be starting at quarterback," Solich said.

"And I think the ballclub had a pretty good idea of who was going to be the starting quarterback without us actually naming him."

Under the circumstances, then, it made sense to go ahead and make the announcement. And knowing helped.

"There's a little bit of a difference, I think, that I've noticed, knowing that I'm going to start this week, and in the past knowing there was a possibility I was going to start, but not knowing who was until the end of the week," said Crouch.

"The main thing is, during the week you're kind of competitive with each other not knowing who's going to start. So you're a little bit afraid to make a mistake."

Shevin Wiggins makes a spectacular effort on a pass from Eric Crouch but the senior wingback is unable to make the play.



Reaching For Re

all game photos by Scott Bruhn



**Nebraska Rebounds, Pounds Cyclones,
42-7, As Kansas State Awaits
By Mike Babcock**

ng

espect

Without that added pressure, Crouch had what he considered a good week of practice, which translated into a good game. He rushed for 91 yards and completed 4 of 8 passes for 44 yards.

"I was really pleased with Eric and what he got accomplished again today, in rather tough conditions," Solich said.

Solich also announced on Monday that Alexander would be starting.

"I think his quickness and acceleration showed (against Texas), so we plan on using Dan more in this ballgame," said Solich.

"We're just always searching for our best combination in terms of looking for big plays."

What he couldn't have known on Monday was that the weather conditions on Saturday would be well-suited for the 6-foot, 250-pound Alexander.

"This weather is definitely beneficial to my style of running," Alexander said, noting his strength is running "straight up the field."

Even though his longest run was only 13 yards, he was almost always moving forward. He did have just six yards in losses, five of which came on one play after he recovered a fumbled pitch.

"I thought he ran really well," Solich said of Alexander. "This game kind of suited him in a lot of ways."

"You couldn't really make the

sharp cuts. I don't know that his true speed and quickness showed today."

Alexander scored the game's first touchdown with 28 seconds left in the first quarter after an Iowa State mistake on a partially blocked punt, one of two in the game.

An Iowa State player tried to pick up Bill Lafleur's kick after it went past the line of scrimmage. Nebraska's Josh Kohl recovered what was ruled a fumble at the Cyclone 42.

Wingback Shevin Wiggins ran 17 yards on the first play following the recovery. Crouch scrambled for four yards, and Alexander covered the final 21 yards on three carries.

His second touchdown, which capped a 13-play, 79-yard drive, also was set up by the defense.

Iowa State had driven to the Cornhusker 17-yard line early in the second quarter, when free safety Clint Finley intercepted a Todd Bandhauer pass on second down at the goal line.

The pass was intended for wide receiver Chris Anthony, who was covered by Nebraska cornerback Erwin Swiney.

The ball was deflected and it was "floating," said Finley. "I just had to run under it."

The interception was his first at Nebraska. Later, he intercepted another on the first play of Iowa State's next possession.

"It would be terrible to go through my whole career at Nebraska at free safety and not have an interception," Finley said.

"That was crossing my mind."

He is only a sophomore.

The Cornhuskers couldn't capitalize on that one, however, and were forced to punt. Again Lafleur's kick was blocked, giving Iowa State the ball at the Nebraska 46-yard line.

The Cornhusker defense wouldn't budge, however. "For the most part, we really controlled the game from the outset," Solich said.

Iowa State finished with 103 yards rushing, even though it went into the fourth quarter with zero yards net.

The Cyclones didn't get on the scoreboard until 4:47 remained, when Ennis Haywood ran 19 yards for a touchdown against the reserves.

"We played all right, except for when they scored," Foreman said. "It was a tough week to come back and play after a hard loss at Texas."

Buckhalter, who carried only seven times for 33 yards, sent Nebraska to the lockerroom at halftime with a 21-0

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lead, capping a seven-play, 47-yard drive from two yards out.

Alexander scored his third touchdown with 3:11 remaining in the third quarter, finishing off a seven-play, 62-yard drive.

Christo and Joe Walker finished Nebraska's scoring with fourth-quarter touchdowns, Christo's on a 16-yard run and Walker's on a 65-yard interception return. "Every time I touch the ball, I feel like I can score," said Walker, a sophomore defensive back. "Once you see daylight, it's all on you."

Walker became only the fifth player in NCAA Division I-A history to score touchdowns on a kickoff return, a punt return and an interception return during the same season.

"I think it's great to be able to go down in history," he said.

What was even greater was winning. "This is a very good game to build off of," said Solich.

"And I'm not referring to it as a good game to build off of because of Kansas State [Nebraska's next opponent]."

Even though the Cornhuskers dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in 96 weeks, "we haven't lost confidence, and I'm glad the coaches haven't either," senior fullback and co-captain Joel Makovicka said.

"We have a lot of pride."

That showed under miserable playing conditions.

"Our team has generally played well, regardless of the weather," Solich said. "Teams at Nebraska have been that way, not just this year."

Whatever the weather, "we're ready to go," he said. ■



Mike Brown and the Nebraska secondary rebounded from a less-than-stellar showing against Texas, holding Iowa State to just 91 passing yards.

4TH & 1 NCHES

More News From The Iowa State Game

• In addition to sophomore I-back **Dan Alexander**, Nebraska had two other first-time starters: sophomore offensive right guard **Russ Hochstein** and redshirt freshman tight end **Tracey Wistrom**.

The Cornhuskers opened in a two-tight end set, with senior **Sheldon Jackson** also starting.

• Alexander began the season third on the depth chart. He went into the game having carried 45 times for 237 yards (5.3) and one touchdown.

• **Frank Solich**, in answer to a question about the 6-foot, 250-pound Alexander: "He could be a fullback for us, without question. But right now, we need him at I-back."

• Junior offensive tackle **Jeff Clausen**, who has been sidelined all season by a knee problem, was included on the travel roster to Iowa State. He did not see action, however.

• Senior fullback **Joel Makovicka** had six carries for 30 yards and is now 17 yards from tying Tom Rathman for third on the Cornhuskers' all-time rushing list for fullbacks.

Makovicka needs 69 yards to tie **Dick Davis** at No. 2 and 330 yards to reach **Andra Franklin** at No. 1.

Makovicka's career totals are 1,409 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns, a school record for a fullback.

He was the Cornhuskers' leading receiver against Iowa State, with two receptions for 25 yards.

• Sophomore free safety **Clint Finley's** two interceptions tie him with cornerback **Ralph Brown** and defensive tackle **Jason Wiltz** for second on the team, behind **Joe Walker**, who picked off his third of the season and returned it 65 yards for a touchdown.

Finley compared himself with Wiltz. "Jason's got better hands," he said. "I've got to work on that."

• The Cornhuskers converted three of Iowa State's four turnovers into touchdowns. "We have not been getting enough turnovers, enough take-aways," Solich said. "They don't do you any good if you're not able to capitalize on them."

• Nebraska's performance against the Cyclones might not have been its best of the season, but it was close. "I've got to look at the films, but I've got to believe we played pretty well today," said Solich.

• The Cornhuskers have posted 87 consecutive victories when holding the opposition to 10 or fewer points. Iowa was the last opponent to make 10 points hold up, winning 10-7 in 1981.

• In addition to Alexander and sophomore Correll Buckhalter, I-backs **Travis Soucie** and **Dan White** made the trip to Iowa State. Soucie is a sophomore walkon from Hastings St. Cecelia High School. White is a red-shirt scholarship freshman from Green Bay, Wis. Each carried once late in the game.

• The Cornhuskers had a good week of practice, according to Solich, and were able to shake off the effects of a 20-16 loss against Texas.

They didn't appear to have lost any confidence. "We certainly didn't practice that way," said Solich.

• Nebraska was successful on a fourth-and-1 at its own 44-yard line on its first offensive possession of the game.

The decision "certainly could have backfired," admitted Solich. "I was thinking to get some points on the board" for confidence. ■



Joe WALKER

1998 Schedule/Record (8-2)

Aug. 29	vs. Louisiana Tech\$	W, 56-27
Sept. 5	Ala.-Birmingham	W, 38-7
Sept. 12	@ California	W, 24-3
Sept. 26	Washington	W, 55-7
Oct. 3	vs. Oklahoma St.&	W, 24-17
Oct. 10	@ Texas A&M	L, 28-21
Oct. 17	Kansas	W, 41-0
Oct. 24	Missouri	W, 20-13
Oct. 31	Texas	L, 20-16
Nov. 7	@ Iowa St.	W, 42-7
Nov. 14	@ Kansas St.	1:10 p.m.
Nov. 27	Colorado	1:30 p.m.

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Score By Quarters

Nebraska	7	14	7	14	—	42
Iowa St.	0	0	0	7	—	7

Team Stats

	NU	ISU
First Downs	24	17
Rushing	20	10
Passing	3	5
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	62	38
Yards Gained Rushing	365	154
Yards Lost Rushing	6	51
Net Yards Rushing	359	103
Net Yards Passing	44	124
Passes Attempted	9	32
Passes Completed	4	11
Had Intercepted	1	3
Total Plays	71	70
Total Net Yards	403	227
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.7	3.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-31	9-70
Punts-Yards	3-59	3-115
Avg. Per Punt	19.7	38.3
Punt Returns-Yards	1-23	1-0
Interceptions-Yards	3-86	1-51
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	7-127
Possession Time	32:41	27:19



Eric Crouch started in place of the injured Bobby Newcombe and accounted for 135 yards of offense.

Individual Leaders

NEBRASKA

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Alexander, D.	22	110	5.0	13	3
Crouch, E.	16	91	5.1	31	0
Christo, M.	5	34	6.8	16	1
Buckhalter, C.	7	33	4.7	14	1
Makovicka, J.	6	30	5.0	11	0
Runty, J.	1	28	28.0	28	0
Wiggins, S.	2	18	9.0	17	0
Miller, W.	2	8	4.0	5	0
Soucie, T.	1	7	7.0	7	0
White, D.	1	0	0.0	0	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	4-8-1	50.0	44	0
Christo, M.	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Makovicka, J.	2	25	12.5	15	0
Cheatham, K.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Davidson, M.	1	7	7.0	7	0

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Brown, K.	1	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Walker, J.	1	23	23.0	23	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
none					

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Swiney, E.	5	2	7	0	0	0
Ortiz, T.	4	3	7	2-5	0	0
Finley, C.	2	3	5	2-3	2-21	0
Brown, M.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Johnson, E.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Craver, K.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Polk, C.	3	1	4	2-9	0	0
Walker, J.	1	2	3	0	1-65	0
Foreman, J.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Kohl, J.	2	1	3	1-3	0	0
Kaiser, L.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Slechta, J.	1	2	3	1-4	0	0

IOWA ST.

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Davis, D.	18	48	2.8	11	0
Haywood, E.	6	38	6.3	19	1
Rosenfels, S.	4	34	8.5	18	0
Moses, J.J.	6	12	2.0	9	0
Parmetier, J.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Bandhauer, T.	2	-14	-7.0	0	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Bandhauer, T.	9-25-3	36.0	118	0
Rosenfels, S.	2-7-0	28.6	6	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	4	88	22.0	37	0
Anthony, C.	3	35	11.7	13	0
Davis, D.	2	-2	-1.0	4	0
Gibson, D.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Haywood, E.	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
none			

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Jarrot, L.	1	0	0.0	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Wilson, K.	4	65	16.3	24	0
Densmore, D.	2	45	22.5	26	0
Groce, D.	1	17	17.0	17	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Waters, J.	7	6	13	0	0	0
Reed, J.	5	6	11	0	0	0
Achebe, C.	3	6	9	0	0	0
King, K.	3	6	9	0	1-51	0
Avey, D.	4	3	7	1-5	0	0
Knighten, K.	2	4	6	0	0	0
Densmore, D.	3	2	5	0	0	0
DeRonde, K.	0	5	5	0	0	0
Powers, J.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Anderson, D.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Beckom, J.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Turner, A.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Hayward, R.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Ansley, B.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Daniels, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Elmore, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0

'98 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Buckhalter, C.	10	114	653	65.3	8
Makovicka, J.	10	87	409	40.9	2
Alexander, D.	8	67	347	43.4	4
Crouch, E.	6	57	333	55.5	5
Newcombe, B.	6	83	228	38.0	8
Christo, M.	7	59	223	31.9	3
Evans, D.	3	38	218	72.7	4
Miller, W.	10	19	96	9.6	2
Runty, J.	4	3	59	14.8	0
Wiggins, S.	10	8	47	4.7	0
Legate, B.	8	5	28	3.5	1
White, D.	6	7	27	4.5	0
Brown, L.	3	1	13	4.3	0
Kingston, B.	2	3	9	4.5	0
Soucie, T.	1	1	7	7.0	0
Grager, N.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Tillery, A.	1	1	1	1.0	0
Stanislav, J.	1	1	1	1.0	0
London, F.	7	1	-2	-0.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Newcombe, B.	6	50-79-1	63.3	712	1
Crouch, E.	6	29-58-2	50.0	339	1
Christo, M.	7	19-28-0	67.9	261	2

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Davidson, M.	10	28	342	12.2	34.2	0
Wiggins, S.	10	18	256	14.2	25.6	1
Jackson, S.	10	14	284	20.3	28.4	2
Cheatham, K.	7	11	100	9.9	14.3	0
Buckhalter, C.	9	9	65	7.2	7.2	0
Haafke, B.	9	6	54	9.0	6.0	0
Makovicka, J.	10	4	67	14.3	6.7	0
Evans, D.	3	3	23	7.7	7.7	0
Wistrom, T.	10	2	84	42.0	8.4	1
Brown, L.	3	2	21	10.5	7.0	0
Debates, T.J.	9	1	16	16.0	1.8	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	10	16	10	48

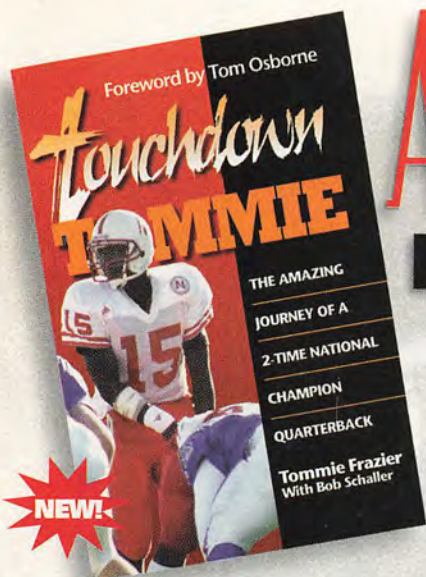
DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Brown, M.	10	28	51	79	4-4	1-1	0
Foreman, J.	10	23	51	74	6-23	0	2.5-18
Kelsay, C.	10	25	30	55	9-35	1-0	3.5-27
Johnson, E.	10	25	33	58	7-32	0	5-31
Rucker, M.	10	17	24	41	7-10	0	0
Swiney, E.	10	24	22	46	4-16	0	2-12
Walker, J.	10	19	21	40	4-7	3-65	0
Kaiser, L.	10	15	21	36	8-22	0	5.5-21
Ortiz, T.	9	18	21	39	7-19	0	1-3
Brown, R.	10	19	14	33	1-1	2-60	0
Shaw, B.	10	10	22	32	4-10	0	1-5
Wiltz, J.	10	8	20	29	0	2-32	1-7
Vanden Bosch, K.	10	8	16	24	4-36	0	2-29
Warren, S.	8	7	15	22	1-3	0	0
Finley, C.	7	5	19	24	3-14	2-21	0
Polk, C.	10	12	9	21	4-14	1-16	0
Jackson, J.	8	7	6	13	2-19	0	2-19
Craver, K.	9	7	8	15	0	0	0
Wills, A.	10	5	5	10	0	0	0
Reynolds, K.	6	5	3	8	1-5	0	0
Kohl, J.	10	4	5	9	1-3	0	0
Toline, T.	10	5	2	7	0	0	0
Slechta, J.	7	2	6	8	2-7	0	5-3
Burrow, J.	10	4	2	6	0	0	0
Lohr, J.	10	4	2	6	0	0	0
Legate, B.	8	1	2	3	0	0	0
McGraw, G.	9	1	2	3	0	0	0
Vedral, M.	5	1	1	2	0	0	0
Booker, D.	10	2	0	2	0	0	0
Woodward, W.	9	2	2	4	0	0	0
Wichmann, J.P.	3	1	1	2	0	0	0
Raymond, S.	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
Tuttle, C.	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
McGinn, M.	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mehl, L.	1	0	1	1	1-3	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	4014	3006
Plays	721	672
Average Per Play	5.6	4.5
Average Per Game	401.4	300.6
Net Rushing Yards	2702	1084
Attempts	556	377
TDs Rushing	37	6
Net Passing Yards	1312	1922
Attempts	167	295
Completions	98	142
Average Per Pass	7.9	6.5
Average Per Catch	13.4	13.5
Average Per Game	131.2	192.2
TDs Passing	4	9
Sacks By-Yards	26-175	16-111
Fumbles-Lost	23-10	21-7
Penalties-Yards	51-458	88-669

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	69	93	79	96	0	337
Opponents	14	46	32	37	0	129

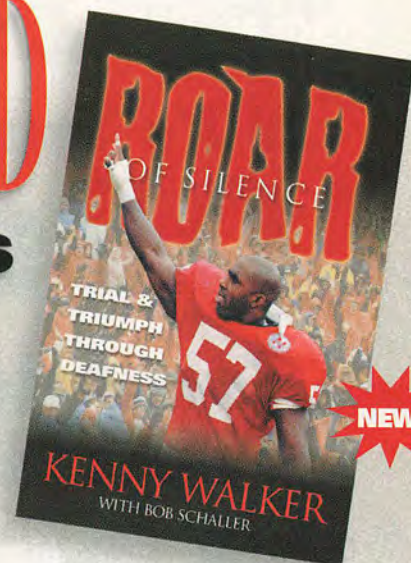


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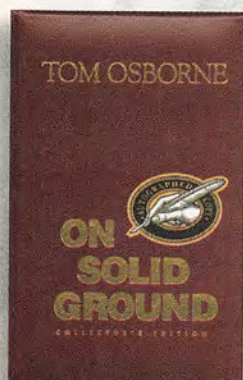
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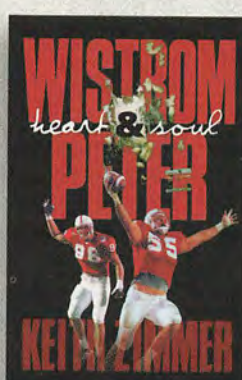
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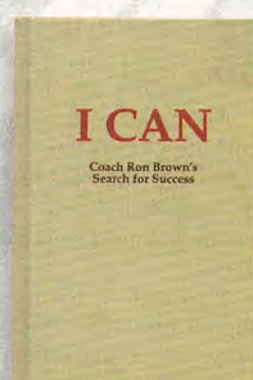
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NU's Top 10 QBs...

Tommie FRAZIER

Despite not winning the Heisman Trophy, his senior season was an appropriate conclusion to his career as Nebraska set school records for total offense and scoring en route to the Cornhuskers' second national title under his direction

Tommie Frazier accounted for more total offensive yards than any player in Nebraska football history. He rushed for 1,955 and passed for 3,521 in the equivalent of three full seasons.

He had the second-most career rushing yards by a Cornhusker quarterback, behind Steve Taylor. And he had the third-most career passing yards, behind Dave Humm and Jerry Tagge.

Those statistics are a poor indication of Frazier's value to the program, however, a fact reflected in his own words during a news conference in the South Stadium varsity lounge before he left for New York City to attend the Heisman Trophy presentation ceremony in December of 1995.

"I'm happy with the decision I made four years ago," he said. "If I had to do it over, I'd do the same thing. I just want to be known as a quarterback who came to Nebraska and did well."

"Individually, I don't care what legacy I leave here."

Frazier achieved his goal. He did well, and then some.

And whatever his intention, he left a legacy not likely to be equaled. "I don't want to give the impression this is a one-man program in the last four years," then-coach Tom Osborne said. "But I would say if I were to choose one player who has had the most impact on the most number of games over the longest period of time since I've been at Nebraska, it would be

Tommie Frazier."

Osborne coached 36 seasons at Nebraska, including 25 as head coach.

Although statistics fall short of reflecting the depth of meaning in those words, one comes close. During Frazier's four seasons, the Cornhuskers' record in games he started was 33-3.

Only one major college quarterback, Alabama's Jay Barker, has ever had a better record as a starter, in fact. The Crimson Tide was 35-2-1 in games Barker started from 1991 through 1994.

Frazier almost certainly would have surpassed Barker's total had he not been sidelined for eight games during his junior season by a much-publicized blood-clot problem.

Frazier's health became a significant news story in Nebraska, evidence not only of the affection he inspired in the state but also of the unique relationship between the state and Cornhusker football. "When I first came to Nebraska, I was shocked at how people live and die with the Huskers," Frazier wrote in his recently



published autobiography *Touchdown Tommie* (Cross Training Publishing).

"When we win, life is good. When we lose, it's like there was a death in the family. That is part of the reason I am so proud of what we accomplished in winning two (national) titles. I was fortunate to play the game I love for a crowd and a state that appreciates someone who wants to win so badly."

Frazier's extraordinary will to win was illustrated in dramatic fashion time and again.

His sophomore season, he suffered a severe shoulder sprain on the second play from scrimmage in the second half of a 21-17 victory against Colorado at Boulder, after gaining 26 yards on an option run. He was taken to

the lockerroom but returned to action just one series later.

The pain was so excruciating, however, that Frazier, concerned the shoulder might pop out, told Osborne he couldn't take more hits and left the game in the fourth quarter.

After Colorado scored with 2:54 remaining to cut the deficit to the final seven points, however, Frazier shed

"If I were to choose one player who has had the most impact on the most number of games over the longest period of time since I've been at Nebraska, it would be Tommie Frazier."

Tom Osborne

the cape he was wearing against the cold and went back into the game. "The decision was, if they went down and scored, I was going to go back in there, no matter what," he explained later.

His leadership was the difference in the game, according to Colorado coach Bill McCartney.

"When Tommie went down, that kind of boosted their guys up," Cornhusker split end Corey Dixon said afterward. "We knew Tommie has a lot of heart. That showed he wanted it a lot."

During his weekly news conference on the Tuesday before Nebraska's 44-21 victory at Colorado in 1995, Osborne was asked his opinion of Frazier's chances of winning the Heisman Trophy.

"If statistics are the criteria, obviously, Tommie probably isn't going to win it," he replied.

"If they look at moving the football and winning games, being a great competitor and being multifaceted, then I think Tommie has a great chance. If there are other things that are major factors, he probably doesn't have much chance. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"And who knows what people are looking for?"

Frazier didn't win the Heisman Trophy. Individual statistics were more important than team success in the eyes of a majority of voters, and he finished second to Ohio State's Eddie George.

Still, Heisman Trophy or not, Frazier's senior season was an appropriate conclusion to his career. Under his direction, Nebraska set school records for total offense (556.3) and scoring (52.4).

The Cornhuskers were more explosive than the "Scoring Explosion" team in 1983. And they won a second consecutive national championship, humiliating Florida in the Fiesta Bowl following the 1995 season.

Frazier added an exclamation point to his career with a 75-yard touchdown run against the Gators. The official Fiesta Bowl play-by-play sheet credited him with breaking seven tackles in the first 20 yards of the run. But "there were 11 of them," said Nebraska defensive tackle Christian Peter.

At the teleconference before he left for the Heisman Trophy ceremony, he was asked what he would remember most about his career at Nebraska.

10 QUESTIONS

Huskers Illustrated talks with defensive coordinator CHARLIE McBRIDE

1 Is there a philosophy behind your unkempt office?

There's a sign up there that says, 'I'm too busy to be neat.' But you can't find the sign. It is up there, though, I swear. I'll show it to you."

2 If a young man told you he wanted to be a football coach, what would you advise him?

I'd advise him to go after it, because I think it's a great profession if it's what you want to do. In fact, in our Bible study this morning it talked about how one of God's gifts is for a man to labor in what he enjoys. Unfortunately, some people labor in things they don't enjoy.

3 If you wouldn't have gone into coaching, what would you have done?

I would have made moonshine up in the mountains (in his native West Virginia).

4 Who's the best quarterback you've coached against?

I think **Scott Mitchell** from Utah was the most productive. There was one quarterback from Florida State, who wasn't all that big (**Danny McManus**), who hurt us a lot in the 1988 Fiesta Bowl. And the most perfect pre-game spiral I've seen was thrown by the guy from Washington (**Brock Huard**).

5 When you get the opportunity to watch college games, are there certain teams you most like to watch?

The teams I most like to watch are teams I've put on private clinics for — they'll be unmentioned — to see what they've adapted.

6 What's more entertaining to watch — college football or pro football?

College football is by far more entertaining. Number one, it has far more plays per game, because there's a 25-second clock opposed to a 35-second clock. Plus the variety is much greater simply because the pros are limited as to the number of players they have on their squad. A pro team, for example, couldn't decide they were going to run Army's offense or Nebraska's offense on a given week. It would be impossible.

7 What's the most belligerent fan reaction you have had directed toward you?

It was after the Kansas State game (a 45-28 Husker win in 1993), when they set records against us. People were attacking my wife verbally in the stands.

8 Who's the best defensive back you've coached?

I don't want to answer that, because you would have to go into a long diatribe about why you would pick a certain guy in certain situations. I've been blessed with a bunch of great players.

9 Have you ever wanted to be a head coach?

When I was younger I wanted to be a head coach, but I was not aggressive at pursuing head coaching jobs. That doesn't mean I would have gotten them. Once I got here, the opportunity to compete and win national championships overrode spray-painting helmets and lining the field at a small school the night before a game.

10 What's your least-favorite thing about recruiting?

It's probably the insincerity of parents. Basically, they don't want to hurt your feelings. So they're not up front about whether they want their son to go to a school far away from home. (McBride is responsible for recruiting the Far West region.) I'd rather have a mother just say, 'Look, I think you have a great school, but my son is going to stay close to home.' Then you can move on to the next prospect. ■



Times were tough for McBride in 1993 when his wife was verbally attacked in the stands.

"The success we had as a team," he said.

"All the honors I've won have come because of my teammates."

Frazier, who now works in public

relations for a telecommunications company, was quick to share credit right to the end, focusing on the team — and in so doing, defining what being a winner means. ■

Tom Osborne often has claimed with a laugh that he and John Melton remained in the press box at Memorial Stadium long after the game ended, so the crowd of 65,986 could leave.

The claim makes for a good story, even if it isn't true.

Nebraska football fans were not amused by what they saw that afternoon, and they could direct their displeasure at Osborne and Melton as the two Bob Devaney assistants made their way to the field and on to Schulte Fieldhouse, where the Cornhusker lockerroom was located at the time.

Osborne, who had been made a full-time assistant in 1967, coached the receivers, and Melton coached the linebackers. On game days, they were assigned to duty in the press box.

Ordinarily, that wasn't such a bad assignment. This day was a notable exception.

The game in question was played on Nov. 9, 1968. It was Homecoming, and Nebraska's opponent was Kansas State, which came to Lincoln with a 2-5 record, having lost four in a row.

Coach Vince Gibson's Wildcats hadn't defeated Nebraska since 1959. They also hadn't won a Big Eight Conference game since 1964, which meant they seemed to be just what the Cornhuskers ordered.

After finishing with a 6-4 record the previous season, Nebraska had opened the 1968 season with three consecutive victories and moved up to No. 9 in the Associated Press national rankings.

After back-to-back conference losses to No. 6 Kansas and No. 20 Missouri, the Cornhuskers had regrouped to win twice on the road, against Oklahoma State and Iowa State.

With two more victories in their final three games, they might well get a bowl bid.

Kansas State seemed intent on self-destructing, losing three fumbles and drawing 125 yards in penalties — to Nebraska's none. But Wildcat quarterback Lynn Dickey teamed with Dave Jones on a 47-yard pass on the game's first play from scrimmage to set up a touchdown three plays later.

That touchdown, on a Dickey-to-Mack-Herron pass, would be the only one of the afternoon.

The Wildcats' Matt Arreguin, who missed the extra-point attempt following the touchdown, would add field goals of 28 and 50 yards early in the



For the past 29 years, Kansas State has tried to beat Nebraska. Each time, the Wildcats have failed. With what is arguably their best team ever, could the Wildcats finally break the streak, or will the Cornhuskers once again have them

SEEING RED?

By Mike Babcock

fourth quarter, and that was that.

The final score was 12-0. It remains the only time Nebraska has been shut out at Memorial Stadium in the last 34 seasons. Hence, Osborne's story about staying in the press box until the all-clear.

The Cornhuskers managed only 146 total yards, including 78 rushing. The

game was an aberration. And it was the last time the Cornhuskers lost to Kansas State. They have won 29 in a row since then.

Despite Kansas State's remarkable rise to national prominence under coach Bill Snyder, who went to Manhattan from Iowa in 1989, the Wildcats have been unable to win



Ralph Brown (21), Grant Wistrom (98) and Eric Johnson (1) converge on Kansas State running back Eric Hickson in last season's 56-26 thumping of the Wildcats in Lincoln.

against Nebraska.

Kansas State seems to have a mental block about the series, which stands at 70-10-2 all-time in the Cornhuskers' favor.

"They still don't know if they can beat us, in the back of their minds," former Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter said following last season's 56-26 victory in Lincoln.

"We're still Nebraska, and they're still Kansas State."

Peter wasn't the first Cornhusker to express that sentiment.

It's not as if Kansas State has ever been favored to defeat Nebraska during the 29-game streak. The Cornhuskers have been ranked in the AP Top 10 going into all but three of the games — and they were ranked in the Top 20 when they played Kansas State the other three times.

Still, you'd think the Wildcats might have been able to pull an upset, particularly in recent seasons when they've climbed into the AP rankings. Kansas State has been a top 20 team in the AP poll when it has played Nebraska in each of the last four seasons, including No. 8 in 1995.

The No. 2-ranked Cornhuskers won

that game, 49-25, on the way to a second consecutive national championship. Mike Fullman produced the first score early in the game with a 79-yard punt return for a touchdown. He was helped on his way by a memorable Mike Rucker block.

Rucker, then a redshirt freshman, hit Kansas State's Joe Gordon so hard Gordon's helmet came off. The image of that play has come to characterize the Wildcats' frustration against Nebraska.

Considering the circumstances, Kansas State's best opportunity to break the Cornhuskers' spell came in 1994 in Manhattan. Nebraska appeared to be in dire straits at quarterback. Tommie Frazier was sidelined by a blood-clot problem, and Brook Berringer was recovering from a partially collapsed lung.

Sophomore walk-on Matt Turman started and directed the Cornhuskers to the only touchdown they really needed before giving way to Berringer late in the first half of the 17-6 victory.

Nebraska simply lined up and ran right at the Wildcats in that game. Sophomore I-back Lawrence Phillips, who was bothered by a jammed

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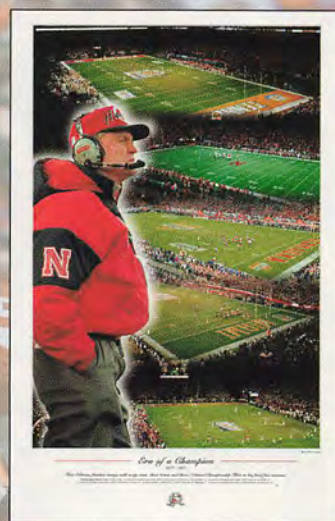
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thumb, carried 31 times for 117 of the Cornhuskers' 210 rushing yards. Kansas State finished with a rushing net of minus-7 yards on 23 carries.

More than mindset, the Wildcats' inability to run the ball against Nebraska has been a significant factor



Despite the 29-game losing streak, Kansas State has become more competitive in the series under Snyder. The games depend on curious occurrences to make them memorable.

In 1983 at Manhattan, for example, Cornhusker Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier took the opening kickoff, stepped back into his own end-zone and downed the ball for a safety.

Kansas State's 2-0 lead

Running it up against Kansas State: Lawrence Phillips (left) ran for 117 yards despite playing with a jammed thumb in 1994, and Ahman Green torched the Wildcats for 193 yards and four touchdowns in last year's contest.

in their 29 seasons of failure.

They've rushed for 100 or more yards against Nebraska only once in Snyder's nine seasons as coach — they managed 112 on 34 carries in 1991.

Nebraska held on to win that game at Memorial Stadium 38-31. The seven-point margin of victory was the second-lowest during the 29-game streak. Nebraska needed a fourth-quarter touchdown to win the first game in the streak 10-7 at Manhattan in 1969.

The Wildcats' J.J. Smith rushed for 102 yards and two touchdowns to complement Chad May's 30 of 51 passing for 489 yards and two touchdowns in the 1993 game, which ended 45-28.

But Kansas State finished with a rushing net of only 76 yards.

The Wildcats' worst rushing performance against Nebraska was in 1995, when they finished with a net of minus-19 yards on 26 carries. Eric Hickson, a fifth-year senior this season, was their leading rusher, with 26 yards on six carries. Nebraska had nine sacks for 82 yards in losses.

The Cornhuskers have been as successful as Kansas State has been inept at rushing the ball in recent games in the series. In the last nine games, the Wildcats have averaged only 45 rushing yards on 29 carries, while

Nebraska has averaged 328 rushing yards on 58 carries.

The Wildcats have held Nebraska under 200 yards rushing in only one of those games. The Cornhuskers finished with 190 yards on 46 carries in 1995 and still won by 24 points.

time. Parrish blamed Shepard for a 38-0 loss, even though the score was 17-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Such oddities no longer characterize the series, though the Wildcats' May did whine about being poked in the eye and suffering blurred vision during Nebraska's 17-6 victory in 1994.

It used to be that when the Cornhuskers traveled to Manhattan, KSU Stadium had about as much red as purple. Nebraska fans were so much in evidence there that Snyder was willing to sell the Wildcats' home game against Nebraska in 1992. The teams played in Tokyo, Japan. Final score: 38-24.

Having a home-field advantage is no longer a problem for Kansas State. The only problem is finding a way to beat Nebraska.

The Wildcats have been pointing to this game since they left the field at ASU Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., following a 35-18 victory against Syracuse in the Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 31.

This will be the season in which the spell is broken, they said.

Or not.

The burden of history is considerable. After 29 seasons, it has taken on a momentum of its own.

was short-lived, however. Nebraska scored the next 21 points, on the way to a 51-25 victory. Rozier rushed for 227 yards and three touchdowns on only 23 carries.

In 1985, also at Manhattan, interim head coach Lee Moon vowed that he wouldn't forget what he considered the Cornhuskers' attempt to embarrass Kansas State. Jon Kelley, a reserve I-back, ran one yard for a touchdown on the final play of the game to cap Nebraska's 41-3 victory.

Moon, the athletic director who coached the team after Jim Dickey resigned following the second game of the season, might not have forgotten. But he soon left for Marshall University.

In 1986, Moon's successor as head coach, Stan Parrish, was miffed at Bill Shepard, Nebraska's grounds manager, for plowing snow from the artificial turf at Memorial Stadium during half-



The last time Kansas State defeated Nebraska in football, Solich and Snyder were high school coaches, Solich in his first year at Lincoln Southeast and Snyder in Indio, Calif.

The pattern that's been established will be difficult to break. ■



For certain, Jaime Krondak isn't the best hitter or blocker on the Nebraska volleyball team. She may not even be the Huskers' best passer. But what the senior from Lincoln does best may be the most important thing for Nebraska. Above all else, Krondak is a winner.

"She's just tough in tough situations," said Nebraska coach Terry Pettit, who watched Krondak play in high school alongside his daughter, Katherine, now a setter at Colorado State. "Sometimes I need to remind her how valuable she is. We had a conversation in front of the team and I just said 'Jaime, I don't care if you get a kill, but when you're on the court, you're going to provide leadership and you're going to tell people what the other team is doing.'"

"If you look at our match against Florida, she hit for a negative. Was she valuable? Yes. She does all the things that allow a team of this nature to win."

With Krondak healthy and directing the Huskers on and off the court, Nebraska is making a run at a second

national championship. The Huskers won their first title in 1995 with Krondak playing a large role as a freshman.

Three years later, Krondak has overcome back and ankle injuries to help put the Huskers in the title chase again. Third-ranked Nebraska was 18-0 overall and 9-0 in conference play heading into the final two months of the season. Krondak stood fifth on the team in kills, third in hitting percentage, fourth in digs and first in service aces. Like her coach, she says those numbers aren't important. The win-loss mark is how she measures her job performance.

And since starting her first-ever match at Nebraska, Krondak has earned high ratings. In her four seasons, NU is 107-12. Four of those losses came last season when Krondak was hampered or sidelined by back problems. In all, she was forced to miss 10 matches.

"Especially in October and early November, the pain was just unbearable," said Krondak, whose mix of rest and rehabilitation in the offseason is helping this fall. "I wanted to be in the

Despite playing four years, Krondak likely won't crack the school's all-time Top 10 in any statistical category, but the contributions she has made to the program are immeasurable
By Todd Henrichs

Jaime's Not Crying



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position to help this team win a national championship. I would let myself and the team down if we didn't win."

With the days counting down to a possible Final Four appearance in Madison, Wis., Krondak is perhaps playing the best volleyball of her career. Pettit said as much after she hurt nationally ranked Texas A&M with a double-double — 19 kills and 17 digs — earlier this season. Krondak's hitting percentage, a factor of kills, errors and total attacks, is at .359, which is the highest among outside hitters in the Big 12.

A year ago, Krondak hit just .181 before the back injury relegated her to only back row duty late in the season. That disappointment, combined with the regional loss at Long Beach State, probably explains why Krondak showed up for practice this fall more determined than ever.

"I think the difference between Jaime this year and last year is as much mental as anything," Pettit said. "It's hard to understand that, I think, when you are a developing player."

Krondak has truly grown into her role.

"I'm not exceptional in any aspect of the game," she said. "I am just there to do it day in and day out. I help out from the mental aspect, because when things aren't going well, I am the one who is supposed to spice it up and give a little kick to the team."

Krondak has been doing that since high school. Her Lincoln East team was ranked No. 1 nationally in 1994 with a record of 38-0 before losing to Bellevue West in the Class A championship match. She played in every match for the Spartans over four years and was 100-14 in her last three seasons at East.

Her decision to play at Nebraska surprised no one, but made it easy for the experts to name the Huskers' recruiting class the best in the country. Krondak came to NU alongside eventual All-American setter Fiona Nepo.

Combined, they've played in three regional finals and two Final Fours. And along with senior Megan Korver, a transfer from George Washington, they are the driving force behind the Huskers this season.

Krondak, who calls herself loud and obnoxious, shares similarities with Nepo, who sees herself as somewhat of a class clown. They both have the ability to bark at teammates without losing their respect. They can also break the

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"I'm not exceptional in any aspect of the game. I am just there to do it day in and day out. I help out from the mental aspect . . . I am the one who is supposed to spice it up and give a little kick to the team."

Jaime Krondak



team out in laughter with just a couple of words.

Many have compared NU's three seniors to the trio of Christy Johnson, Allison Weston and Billie Winsett that led Nebraska to its 1995 championship.

"When you think about it, we're all in their positions, and the leadership that we provide is very similar to what they provided," Krondak said. "There was major determination on the seniors' part that year. Now I'm in the position to reflect that on to my team."

Krondak once feared she may never get that chance. If the back injury weren't scary enough, an awkward fall in early season drills jeopardized her senior season. Krondak feared she broke her ankle that day but instead missed only two matches before returning to help Nebraska defeat defending national champion Stanford earlier this season.

The Huskers have also beaten the likes of San Diego, Ohio State, Loyola Marymount, Florida and Texas, all nationally ranked opponents with Final Four aspirations of their own.

Not one of those teams, however, has been able to match Nebraska's balance and determination. Maybe that's because none of those teams has a player quite like Krondak.

"She just knows how to win," Pettit said. "A lot of things haven't gone Jaime Krondak's way, but she knows how to compete. That's the kind of player every team needs." ■

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NOT ALL WET

For 23 years, **Cal Bentz** has coached swim teams at Nebraska. And at the start of almost every season, the Huskers talk about a top 10 NCAA finish. But with 17 All-Americans returning to the team this season, that projection could be conservative. Now when Bentz talks about a possible top 5 finish, you know he's not all wet.

"We have personnel who could put us up there, but a lot will be determined by how things fall," Bentz said. "We go into every year hoping to be in the top 10. We certainly feel our chances are as good as any year."

Nebraska began practice Sept. 21 and opened its season with home meets Oct. 23-24 in Lincoln. The Huskers began the season ranked

11th (women) and 15th (men) in preseason coaches' polls.

Bentz is much more optimistic, likely because his women return 10 All-Americans and 21 letterwinners. Nebraska is shooting for its sixth straight women's conference title.

The men's team boasts seven past All-Americans and 19 returning lettermen.

Adam Pine (butterfly), **Michael Windisch** (individual medley) and divers **Danny Bergman** and **Bert Locklin** are leaders of the men's team. Two sophomores, **Shandra Johnson** of Omaha and Sweden's **Therese Alshammar**, are great contributors for the NU women.

Some newcomers may also contend for All-America honors by the end of the season, Bentz said. Their progress and the continued development of the NU returners will be key in the conference and national title chase.

"We considered ourselves a pretty young team last year," Bentz said. "All of those people who finished strong for us at the end of last year are back with us. We feel pretty strongly that we're better."

Experience aside, Bentz said the Huskers are also working to get better in the weight room. Some added strength could take some of the load off NU's best swimmers. The lengthy season doesn't end until late March.

"We worked with our strength-training people and changed our dry-land program over the offseason," Bentz said. "We'll see more results over time, but we're already seeing those results in practice."

BIG NUMBERS MAN

Fiona Nepo didn't allow **Terry Pettit** to celebrate his 700th career coaching victory without getting a friendly jab in. Nepo, the Nebraska volleyball team's senior setter, saluted her coach after the Huskers' win over Texas

A&M earlier this season.

"Seven hundred victories. That says a lot about how old a guy he is," Nepo said while flashing her ever-present grin to reporters. "No, seriously, I think that's quite an accomplishment."

The win over A&M improved Pettit's all-time collegiate mark to 700-147. His 22-year mark at Nebraska stood at 651-136.

The same weekend Pettit picked up win No. 700, he earned win No. 650 at Nebraska and joined a select group of NCAA Division I coaches. Only **Andy Banachowski** of UCLA, **Elaine Michaelis** of BYU, **Marilyn Nolen** of St. Louis, **Barbara Viera** of Delaware and **Dave Shoji** of Hawaii have reached the 650-win plateau.

Pettit credited the long-standing support of the university for much of his success and thanked his players, past and present. Pettit came to Nebraska from Louisburg (N.C.) Junior College in 1977, the year Nepo was born. ■

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Texas Gets Player Hayter

RUMORS

Texas continues to shock Big 12 conference foes with its ability to nail down early verbal commitments. Longhorn head coach Mack Brown may have earned his biggest verbal yet when All-American running back **Kenny Hayter** (6-feet, 200 pounds, with 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Cypress Falls, Texas, chose the Longhorns over Texas A&M, LSU, Nebraska and OU.

"I just feel that the Longhorns are going to be so good under Coach Brown that I want to be part of it," said Hayter. "Every team that I considered is outstanding, but deep down inside I have always been a Texas fan and just felt I needed to follow my heart and be a Texas Longhorn."

Recruiting experts have mixed reviews about Texas, but nobody can deny the fact the Longhorns have verbal commitments from seven of the top 30 players in Texas and have the top-ranked athlete in Texas at four different positions: wide receiver **Artie Ellis**, offensive linemen **Alfio Randle** and **Robbie Doane**, tight end **Chad Stevens** and place-kicker **Shane Hudnall**.

While the Longhorns are having a banner recruiting year, Oklahoma is off to its worst start in years.

Many of the top in-state recruits are taking a wait-and-see attitude with the Sooners because of the rumors swirling around Oklahoma that Blake will be fired after this year.

Blake is a good recruiter, and already a number of those in-state athletes say they are prepared to come to Oklahoma if Blake stays, but they are all concerned about the coaching situation, including who a new coach would be and the continuing negative publicity that is ripping away at the program.

The Sooners have only two verbal commitments at this point in defensive back **Michael Thompson** of Bristow, Okla., and defensive end **Charlie Atteberry** of Elk City, Okla. Both say they are still committed to OU, but feel they must keep their options open with other schools until the situation with Blake is clarified.

Nebraska has enjoyed great success recruiting in Oklahoma for the past few years. Quarterback **Chris Massey** of Spiro said he will visit the Huskers on Dec. 12 and Michigan the following weekend. All-American cornerback **Elbert Craig** of Oklahoma City (Millwood) also indicated that he will visit Nebraska in December.

Down lineman **Aaron McConnell** of Midwest City, Okla., has backed off a commitment to Colorado. McConnell (6-3 1/2, 260, 5.0) has always been a huge Nebraska and Oklahoma State fan. ■

Huskers Mold Top Athletes Into Safeties

The prototype safety at Nebraska is a player who is not only big and physical but also fleet on his feet

By James HALE

In order for the Cornhuskers to accomplish what they want on defense, they must have a rover and a free safety who can dominate their positions.

Nebraska's rover position requires an athlete who is physical but is also an excellent cover man who can adapt to situations on the fly. At free safety the Huskers must have an athlete who is cerebral, can run, is a sure tackler and fearless against any pass receiver.

Many times the Huskers will take their best skill position athletes who don't play quarterback or tailback and turn them into a rover or a free safety. Clint Finley, the Cornhuskers current starting free safety, was a former quarterback who made the move to defense early in his career.

The best pure athletes in the country always interest the Cornhuskers for their safety positions. They may be raw in football talent, but if they have the athletic talent the Husker coaching staff will turn them into excellent play-

ers. **Carl Crawford** (6-foot-2, 200 pounds, with 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Houston (Davis) is just such an athlete.

Crawford moved to quarterback a year ago and likes the position. In fact, teams looking for an excellent option quarterback are recruiting Crawford, but more are looking at him as a free safety.

"I really have grown to like quarterback, but realize it's probably not my future in football," said Crawford. "Quarterback is fun and I like being the center of attention in the game. At quarterback the game is in your hands, and I like that responsibility. That's also the case at free safety as well. In baseball I play centerfield because it's the key position in the outfield. I like a tough responsibility, and I get that at free safety, too."

Back in our quarterback edition we featured Crawford for good reason. He was drawing more attention at quarterback back then. Now most schools are looking him over as a free safety despite the fact that he has rushed for 825 yards and 11 touchdowns on the 3-5 Davis squad.

"The biggest question surrounding Carl is whether or not he has the discipline to be an excellent safety," said David head coach **Chuck Arnold**. "If Carl would ever concentrate on just one position, he could be unstoppable. However, I am just hoping that he sticks with football because he's awful good in baseball too."

Good enough to be selected a first or second round pick in next summer's amateur baseball draft. If he does go to college, then Crawford insists that Nebraska and Texas A&M are in a dead heat at the moment over Baylor and Texas.



Nebraska would love to get into the running for safety **Gerome Sapp** of Houston (Lamar), who many recruiting experts believe is the best defensive player in Texas.

"If I go to college, then I want to play both football and baseball," said Crawford. "It's going to be hard to turn down pro baseball, especially if the money is right. However, I can do it as long as a great school like Nebraska lets me play both sports. I know that would be tough, but it's something that I am capable of doing and want to do, for that matter."

The Cornhuskers would love to get into the recruiting picture for **Gerome Sapp** (6-1, 200, 4.4) of Houston (Lamar). Sapp is regarded as one of the top talents in Texas, ranked as one of the top five defensive backs in the country and one of the top 20 players in the nation. Despite great effort by the Huskers, Sapp says his top five is Texas, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Michigan and Colorado.

Nebraska has a better shot at **Sterling Kazee** (6-2, 175, 4.4) of Irving (MacArthur), Texas. Kazee is regarded as a top 50 Texas talent and one of the top five defensive back talents in Texas. An all-purpose performer, Kazee plays on running back, defensive back, kick and punt returner. Kazee says he is still wide open concerning his choices and right now lists Florida State, North Carolina, Michigan, Nebraska, OU and Tennessee.

Terrence Kiel (6-1, 190, 4.5) of Lufkin, Texas is super pass defender and run forcer from his free safety spot. This season Kiel has two interceptions to his credit and is leaning to Texas A&M over Miami, Texas and Nebraska.

Nebraska has always struck gold recruiting defensive backs out of California. Their next great West Coast DB just might be **Terrell Roberts** (5-11, 190, 4.48) of El Cerrito, Calif. Roberts is always the best player on the field. As a running back last season he carried the ball only 13 times but scored on six of them. He intercepted seven passes last season, and returned four for touchdowns, one 103 yards for a score.

In 1998 Roberts is once again dominating, despite the fact that he's only had two balls thrown his way on defense this season and he picked off both of those. Roberts has exploded on offense rushing for 1,250 yards and 19 touchdowns through El Cerrito's 7-1 seasons. Roberts totals would be greater, but most of the time he's on the bench at halftime with the game well in hand.

"There is no way my coach is every

REP REPORT

Keeping Up With COLBY FREEMAN

I would say that I am a power running type of quarterback. I don't juke a lot. When I get outside I try to pitch off a defender, but if I can't, then I am going to try to run over him. My size dictates some of that. I am 6-3, 205, and that is bigger than most quarterbacks.

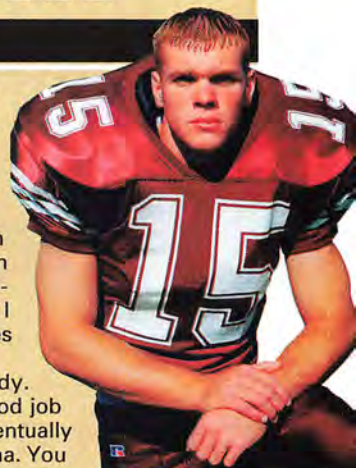
I would say 90 percent of our plays are option plays. Option is my style of football. I have been running option football for four years. I know the reads and what I am supposed to do. Our coaches went to Nebraska this summer and spoke to their coaches, and when I watch them I can tell what they are going to do against certain defenses because we do the same thing on Friday night.

I think Nebraska runs the option better than anybody. It's their bread and butter. I think Syracuse has done a good job running option football with Donovan McNabb. I think eventually Notre Dame is going to be great running it; so will Oklahoma. You know the military schools are always going to be good running it.

Most of the military schools are running the wing option, which is not what we run here at Brownwood. We run a wishbone option. We run the wishbone out of the I-formation just like Nebraska does. We use the three-back stacked set where we can run the triple option.

I want to go to a school that runs option football, so I have started looking at some other schools. I got a film on Oklahoma, have been keeping up with Syracuse, have a film on Navy, and I am watching different colleges looking to see if they are running option football. ■ — **As told to James Hale**

Throughout the 1998 football season, Huskers Illustrated will chronicle the recruiting process of Brownwood quarterback Colby Freeman, one of the top prospects in Texas.



**Colby
FREEMAN**

CAMPUS LIFE

As Seen Through The Eyes Of John Gibson

MORE THAN ANYTHING, his hair grabs your attention.

But someday soon, John Gibson's wild and untamed Afro might take a back seat to his ability to catch footballs.

Through nine games, Gibson had yet to catch a pass. Because of injuries, however, he has seen ample playing time in recent games. Gibson also boosts his playing time by being able to play both wingback and split end.

Gibson struggled in the first few games this season. The sophomore from Papillion-LaVista (Neb.) High School suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament early last fall, and it wasn't until fall camp this season that he returned to full-contact work. It took some time, Gibson said, to feel comfortable on the field again.

Gibson's trademark rock star hair was a matted mess after a recent practice. His personal hairdresser, Nebraska sprinter Aisha Harrison-Maston, was out of town. Otherwise, Gibson might have been sporting his braided and stylish corn rows.

Depending on the style they choose, Harrison-Maston's sessions with Gibson last anywhere from 30 minutes to 90 minutes. They pop in a movie, and Harrison-Maston goes to work.

Gibson's turn on the field finally appeared to arrive last season. He had two catches in the opener against Akron and was in the mix of regular receivers.

But he heard a popping sound in his knee as he planted while running a pattern in an off-week scrimmage in preparation for the second game. Tendinitis still flares up occasionally but Gibson no longer hesitates to cut loose.

Gibson was an iron man at Papillion-LaVista, excelling on offense, defense and special teams. He changed the tone of games with blocks, interceptions, runs and receptions. Papillion coach Gene Suhr called him the best all-around player in school history. ■ — **As told to Steve Sipple**



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going to embarrass another coach, so when we build a big lead at halftime he's going to take his starters out," said Roberts. "In most of our games this year I have been on the sideline at halftime."

An explosive athlete, Roberts has always been a fan of the Big Red and hopes to see Lincoln soon.

"It's the overall program that sets Nebraska apart from every other program in the country," said Roberts. "I love to listen to what they have to say. When their coaches talk, you know what they say is the gospel of college football. They are winning and winning big with the Nebraska formula of football. So, when they talk, they make sense. I look forward to my visit there. They graduate a couple of guys in the secondary and I feel I can play early. Nebraska's coaches are telling me I would have that chance to play early."

Nebraska is battling Washington, California, UCLA, BYU, Illinois and Arizona State for Roberts' services.

LaVance Ray (6-0, 165, 4.4) of Clovis, Calif., is another top five defensive back out on the left coast who has an interest in moving to the Midwest. A year ago Ray had five interceptions and had seven pass breakups. He's been even better this season with five interceptions, one returned 48 yards for a touchdown during Clovis' 6-1 season.

Ray has also posted 20 tackles, one forced fumble and rushed for 340 yards on just 23 carries on offense. Fresno State is his early leader, with Nebraska, Utah and Oklahoma in pursuit.

"Nebraska has a strong team and a great program every year," said Ray. "I like everything about Nebraska. Their program is consistent and they are always sending players to the pros. They teach good solid, fundamental football. I love how their cornerbacks and safeties play. I study their technique and how they go about their business."

Nebraska also has a great shot at **Rashaad Washington** (6-4, 205, 4.5) of Wichita (Southeast), Kansas. Washington is emerging as one of the top 30 players in the Big 12 area as Southeast is ranked No. 1 in Kansas with a perfect 8-0 mark. Washington has narrowed down his choices, but Nebraska has always been in his top five, and he's now talking about Kansas State, Arizona, Tennessee, Oklahoma State, Miami, Arizona, Missouri and Colorado. ■

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Waiting On The Wildcats

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**Mike
BABCOCK**

NEXT UP, KANSAS STATE.

"We're going to get ready," coach Frank Solich told reporters after Nebraska's 42-7 victory against Iowa State in snow-dusted Ames.

"We'll start Monday."

The Cornhuskers will start practicing on Monday. But they were getting ready for Kansas State soon after their eighth victory.

The Kansas State game was mentioned in the lockerroom at Jack Trice Stadium.

"Coach Solich told us, on the bus ride home to start thinking about it," center Josh Heskew said. "We need to start concentrating on it right away."

The Wildcats have been concentrating on the game since they defeated Syracuse in the Fiesta Bowl last Dec. 31. To their credit, they have still maintained their focus, winning nine in a row and moving near the top of the national rankings.

Nebraska, which has 29 consecutive victories against Kansas State dating to a 12-0 loss at home in 1968, finds itself in a curious situation as an underdog.

"Usually, they're coming after us," said sophomore free safety Clint Finley. This season, however, the roles are reversed. The Cornhuskers have become the potential spoilers.

With a victory in Manhattan, Nebraska would have a glimmer of hope of returning to the Big 12 championship game. Missouri would have to lose to Texas A&M then defeat Kansas State to close out the regular season.

And the Cornhuskers, of course, would have to defeat Colorado the day after Thanksgiving.

In that scenario, Nebraska, Kansas State and Missouri would have identical 6-2 Big 12 records, with the Cornhuskers winning head-to-head.

Such a turn of events isn't as farfetched as it might seem. But Nebraska can control only part of it.

"It's going to be a huge game down there (in Manhattan)," Nebraska rush end Chad Kelsay. "We're going to go down there ready to go."

The pressure will be on Kansas State, which could position itself to play for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4 by winning against Nebraska and Missouri.

The Wildcats have suffered in the Bowl Championship

Series rankings because of a weak non-conference schedule, but Ohio State was upset on Saturday by Michigan State and UCLA struggled for the second week in a row.

Nebraska, on the other hand, is playing for pride and to improve its postseason bowl appeal.

The Cornhuskers haven't lost three conference games in the same season since 1976, when they finished in a fourth-place tie in the Big Eight.

Unlike Nebraska, Kansas State has managed to remain injury free. That's especially important at quarterback, where Wildcat senior Michael Bishop has established himself as the clear-cut choice for first-team all-conference honors.

Redshirt freshman Eric Crouch appears to have earned the starting job for Nebraska after a solid effort against Iowa State.

"Definitely, the game was a building block," Crouch said, echoing Solich. "It's too bad it has to come late in the season."

Barring a medical miracle, sophomore Bobby Newcombe apparently won't play against Kansas State, and probably not against Colorado. He might not even be ready for a bowl game.

That leaves Crouch and fifth-year senior Monte Christo to direct an offense that also figures to be without sophomore I-back DeAngelo Evans.

"I'm definitely getting more confident with the offense," said Crouch. "As a unit, there's nothing we can't do with this offense. I'm just glad (to see) the team could bounce back from the (Texas loss). I think we've definitely gotten better all year long."

The Cornhuskers rushed for 359 of their 403 total yards against Iowa State. But the enthusiasm such success inspires must be tempered by

the fact that Iowa State is ranked 97th among NCAA Division I-A teams in rushing defense, allowing 206.8 yards per game.

Because of the inclement weather conditions, Nebraska couldn't test the Cyclones through the air. The Cornhuskers threw only nine passes, completing four for 44 yards.

Almost certainly they will have to throw the ball this Saturday to alleviate the pressure on their running game.

"I'm anxious," Crouch said of playing Kansas State. "This year it seems to be a little bigger of a game."

That's a considerable understatement. The game has never had more significance for Kansas State.

Coach Bill Snyder has brought credibility to a program that once was the laughing stock of Division I-A.

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